

Reflection on a Friday

"I came in like a wrecking ball, I just closed my eyes and swung" those are the words of a Miley Cyrus song I heard today that brought a smile to my face. No other song has contained lyrics that so truly capture my life as it was just a few years ago. I guess wisdom is defined as lessons learned from experience and though all my adult years have been spent in prison I am sometimes amazed that I entered the system so naive and gullible. Ten years ago when I was seventeen if you had told me that some of the most rotten human beings on earth appear nice and even charming I wouldn't have believed. If you had told me that the most dangerous men on earth are soft spoken and polite and that most loudmouths are harmless I'd have believed you were daft. Life is full of lessons and I truly wonder how many things I have yet to learn about the world I live in. Some prisoners who have known me for years tell me I've mellowed out and this is true in part. But mostly I just pick my battles and I fight them

differently. Once upon a time powerful men and women left me in awe. Now I am only in awe of power not those who hold it because I have learned that even the powerful can be stupid, vain, and useless vessels whose power goes nowhere. Once upon a time my temper was like a stick of dynamite on a short fuse. Now my displeasure is expressed no less powerfully but I am patient and meticulous ensuring that when I hold adversaries accountable they are struck with precision rather than speed. Most importantly the battles I now fight are motivated more by my beliefs than to seek revenge for some real or perceived insult. I used to say I would change the world, that it wouldn't change me. The truth is that the world did change me even if I am no less inclined to change it. I arise after each mistake faster, smarter and stronger than before and though I still hate making mistakes I appreciate the value of learning a lesson. Once upon a time if someone did me wrong I would burn inside with a rage so hot it felt as if I would combust if I did not release it