



JOHNNY MAHAFFEY SAYS:
"Shock-waves of the Christmas Spirit Mania"

01.19.15

Things have changed immensely for me this month--and it's only mid-January.

First, my subversive coworker--responsible for many dishonorable acts in character--is now gone, removed from employment, *tout de suite*. He even attempted to maintain his usual hauteur, strutting around the prison-yard with exclamations of unsubstantiated discharging (LOL); but found it a little difficult under such disclosure. His absence from our work environs: is a truly enhanced environment. The saying is true: *Give an idiot enough rope and he'll hang himself.*

Second, my subterranean-born cellie, is no longer my cellie! I have changed cells, going from Wateree 193 to Wateree 164. Same dorm, same side even, just a different cell, back in with one of my old cellies from the Congaree dorm (no longer used by SCDC for general population prisoners). It's a huge relief not sharing a cell with that contentious old cancer of a human, getting out of there in time before any chance of metastasis. In all candor, however, I hold no animosity for the cantankerous con; he is what he is, and that's just how it is. It's just that now, he can be it without me around, just as he's been doing since back before my parents met.

The negativity of both my work, and living space, has been decreased greatly--meaning I can get some more (and better quality) work done. I could say that anger, is the most pervasive of all emotions throughout the prison populace that currently surrounds me--but it's not exactly anger: "The primary benefit of anger for an individual," says psychologist Aaron Sell, "is preventing oneself from being exploited." (Psychology Today, Jan/Feb 2015 p.47 "Beyond Happiness: The Upside of Feeling Down," by Matthew Hutson) Anger causes us (usually) to take action against the source of our anger; problem is, that the anger can sometimes be the catalyst of a volatile situation. Anger that--in truth--is misdirected entirely. A devalued person in the face of depression may choose anger over the inaction of swallowing their hurt and being docile about it: The anger gives a sense of control in nearly any situation. In anger, truth sometimes reveals itself, like loud Freudian slips! Telling as much about the angry person, as it does the alleged source (or cause) of the indignation.

Many of these guys around me are dealing with: shame, guilt, embarrassment, envy, jealousy, betrayal, disappointment, fear, anxiety, regret, confusion, loneliness, sadness, grief, boredom, abandonment, longing, sexual dissatisfaction (leading to hormonal imbalances, I'm sure), and many other various emotions. There's even a multitude of unexpressive individuals with stony, unresponsive manners ... their body vacant, mechanically existing as a cope to an unfavorable fate. And compounding it all, we each must endure constant encroachments on our personal space--of which, we basically have none....

All in all, my circumstance has improved (in spite of more recent Constitutional violations concerning my case) and I will continue to persevere. What I deal with in here, I try not to hold against them; and what I deal with in the courts in the absence of a Constitutional trial, I try not to hold against them either; because none of it should surprise me, or anyone--this is the world society has created.

There's still time to improve, and that's what I'll do: Continue to improve what I can, when I can. And, as my ex-wife advised, not worry about what's outside my control.

