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Art and "Commentary"
by Bob Williams.

Also thanks to Alison
for all the advice, help
and support!



2009

BWJ

To contact the Artist write

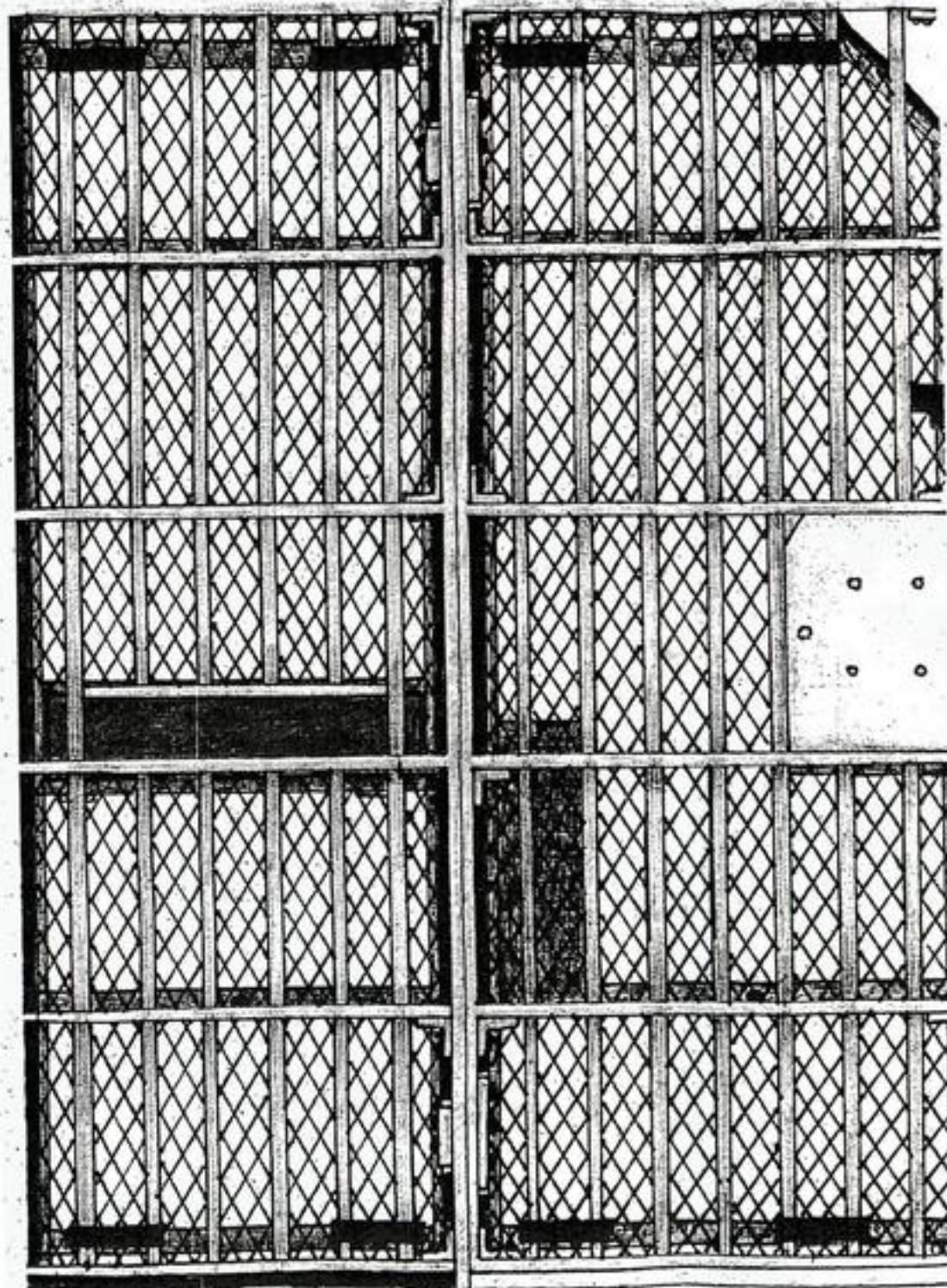
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THE MEANDERINGS OF A DEATH ROW (SAN QUENTIN, EAST BLOCK, YARD THREE) INMATE.



VOLUME #2

A Bucket to sit on, PAPER to
write, draw and PAINT ON, A PEN
PENCIL AND BRUSHES to EXPRESS
myself with and Books. Books
to STUDY AND LEARN from



My front Door, SIDE Door, Back Door and all my many
Windows. 3-EY-20 inside Looking out.



This is me in November 2009 in the visiting room here at San Quentin.

I figured that I would put this photo in here so that you (whomever) reads this can at least put a ~~face~~ face to the pictures and words.



- On Prison -

To most people prison is that SCARY place most often portrayed on T.V. and in movies. A place that is full of angry, violent, crazy men, sexually twisted, drug addicted grown men. That is what the T.V. shows so it must be true right? Then, Death Row "oh they must be 10 times worse!". That is what most think. Are most people and profit driven T.V. Shows or movies getting it right? As somebody who has been in a California correctional institution for the vast majority of my life, most of it spent on DEATH ROW, I can emphatically say no and yes! They have it only about $\frac{1}{2}$ right.

Prison or at least Death Row is like a whole other country and society with its own sets of laws and rules. It is a harsh land where on a DAILY BASIS I must awake to the fact that I am sentenced to DEATH. This is the place I was re-born, where I grew up. It is where I will die



They will shoot at you with Rubber Bullets, but if you don't stop or if they feel the need they will shoot the real gun, and shoot to kill!
₃

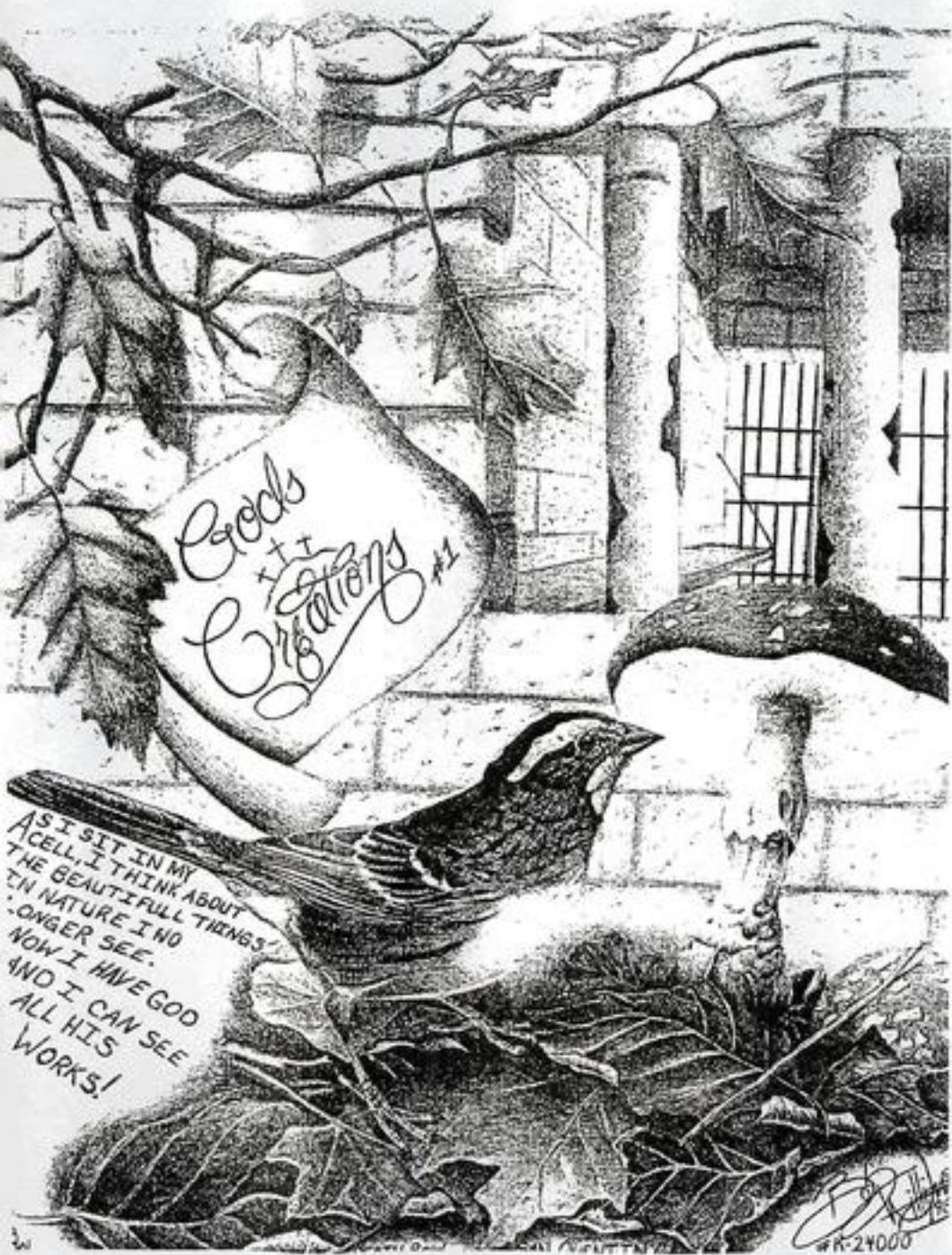
contentment, Happiness, peace, beauty, prosperity - God - Great Spirit - Universe - that I have found

I guess you can say that person, no matter what anybody says about it, is really what the convicts make it to be. Person is Prison no matter what, yet being in Prison doesn't mean that you have to be in Prison - I'm here and I'm on Death Row but I'm free! There are many in Prison much like me, who feel free despite the bars, violence and conditions.

Prison is a state of mind, ask yourself - Are you FREE or are you in Prison?

Many in the "Civilian" world, sadly, are in Prison too.





if the state should have its way. This is a rather noisy, dark and smelly place. Think of a mix of decades old blood, sweat, feces, ass and urine mixed with only a little bit of cleaning solution and 500 people, men, human beings - Breath. But see me the strongest, saddest, even greatest ~~stupid~~ thing is that I hate this place just as much as I love it.

Prison is simply what you make it to be. I walked in this place at 20 years old, really 18 if you count the 2 years spent in County Jail, a directionless dumb-ass kid who didn't know up from down, left from right, his ass burn a hole in the wall! But I got lucky. I used my brain. I watched and I listened, I learned. I came to Death Row.

Most who come to prison get a cell-mate. A big crazy almost war like yard, maybe a job and some freedom of movement. There are politics and many distractions one may or will have to deal with. Here, see me on

Lone Wolf
Dreaming of
The Clouds
Davids"
5 1/4" x 4"
Ballpoint Pen
on Illustration
paper.

Nov. 2009

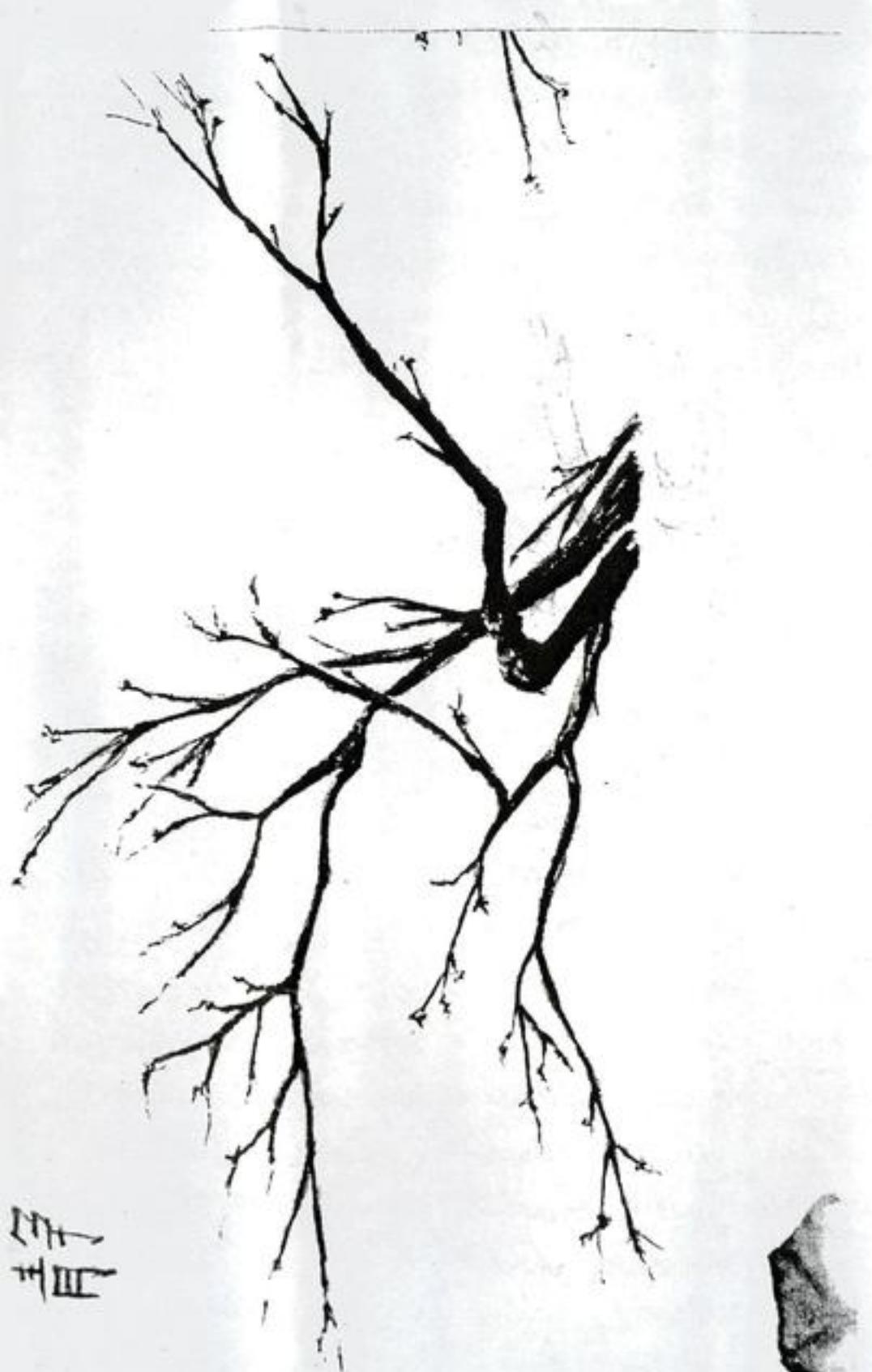


This old lone
wolf lost a
peninsula not
of me. I seem
to spend a lot
of time just
sitting waiting
for this old
boy and his
new wife to
come along.
I am still
here in hopes
that one day
something will
go do, make
it get lucky
and get an
old soul.

Spirituality, The Cross many spend their entire lifetimes in search of. Finding that is an overwhelming emotional and life-altering experience that I wish and hope all in the world would find as it would bring so much change for the better into this world.

The almost sad thing is that I found it in prison on Death Row of all places.

Somehow, so far, I have managed to turn my prison life or experience into so much of a positive, life changing experience as I can ~~possibly~~ manage. Yet, I don't think that it is enough. As a kid growing up I didn't have dreams or plans, now I have dreams and thousands of plans. Mostly I want to give back to the society that I have taken so much from by giving any extra money to charity. By helping young troubled teens not take the wrong paths I've taken. I'd love to work in a group home - Anything to help change the world we live in for the better, anything to help people find the profound, amazing



Death Row is not exactly like that. Here we live in single man cells which we are in about 20 hours a day often times 24 hours a day, showers are 3 times a week about 5 minutes or so long. Meals are delivered to your cell, everything is delivered. Yards are a bit small and crowded and you can go most days be about 4 hours but with the same people year after year and you do the same things out there day after day. Time drags by but looking back - oh how it flies. Every time we leave our cells we are strip searched and placed in hand cuffs behind our backs and "escorted" by a correctional officer to wherever. And in all we do we are watched over by folks with pepper spray, neat little metal sticks that telescope out to bigger metal sticks which probably hurt, and guns with real and rubber bullets ~~that~~ which do hurt! Basically ones life and world is in a little cell or cage as I like to call it and almost all you need is there if ~~it~~ actually sucks and is a blessing.



about myself, my feet self. So I study religion and spirituality for in that one can find peace, wisdom, goodness and so much more. Thus I study its opposite, War. In war you can find the worst of men but also the best of men, honor, courage, loyalty and that soldier's sense of duty, not to ones country or cause, but to goodness and to the world that all true warriors seem to ~~possess~~ possess. In the end it all becomes not about me but about doing what is good and what is right and trying, sometimes in vain, to spread that to others.

Behind this walk I have found something that is great and magical. I can't explain it in human words. There have been very few in history who could and even to themselves they still couldn't express it. It is just that amazing and powerful! I guess you could say that I have found God but not just the God of whatever religion one chooses to follow, religion comes from man after all. I have found the God that is in ALL religions, beliefs and



And God said, "Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creatures that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the firmament of heaven." Genesis: 1 vs. 20

Over time you learn to make your CAVE A SANCTUARY, after all you ARE in there around 20 hours a day. I began to reflect on my life and went over it many times from my first memories to the present. I studied every ~~other~~ decision I've ever made. But I turned my list into a series of LESSONS that I could learn something good from. I dreamed and wished and I wondered what could have been. I READ many books, but I READ Good books that I could learn from, studied up on how to live a good life and become a man, a human being with love and goodness in my heart. I found myself in body, soul and spirit. I slowly became an entirely different person than the one I was when I came to prison. Sitting in this CAVE I fought waves, wandered our mountains and forests, and trekked the paths of the mists. I found that I deeply love this great country-AMERICA



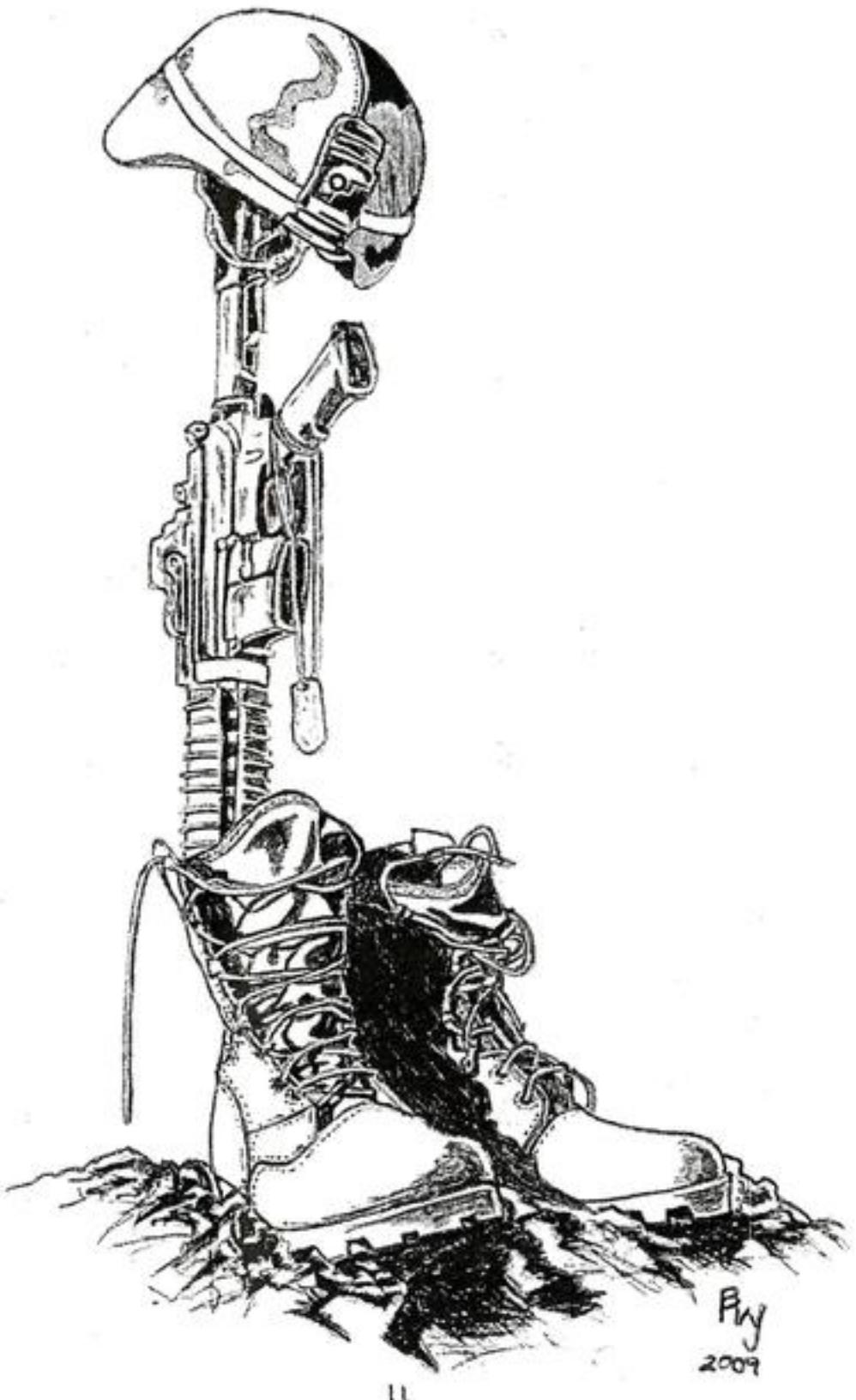
"Free" with more issues than Goblet, AN animal with very very little chance of ever making it. So what happens? He comes right back to prison at the expense of some innocent tax payer who automatically blames ~~the man~~ the man with no thought as to what person did, or really didn't do when they could have, and when one really sits down to think about it should have done.

No personally, I may never get out of here - I will probably die behind these broken walls, but I made a decision that no matter what I will do all I can to become something better than what I came here as, better than most of those around me, and better than those who are paid to hold me. And I tend to expect the same from the men who are here with me. The only way that I have found for me to do that is through my art in an attempt to ~~to~~ express my free inner being and hopefully inspire others or just simply being a smile to ones face. Through books, I tend to learn, learn about life and learn ¹⁴



and often wish they would send me in harsh way instead of some young 19 year old. I developed a deep respect for AMERICAN WARRIORS. I developed a healthy set of morals and values, learned honesty and integrity, loyalty and love. I found God in everything I see and touch, a deep spiritual power that resides within and all around me.

I found life in my books and a sort of expression and purity of soul in Art. One can sit in here and lose themselves in what might have been, get stuck in the past or sleep their life away. There are many options open to a person in prison, most are rather destructive and lead to nowhere -most end up on this path. Then if you search you can find one of only a handful options that lead to something that is good. Few truly find this way, prison life and prison Administrations make it very difficult. Against all the substantial odds I have somehow found one of the paths to goodness.



THE administration here and in California's prisons in general really doesn't help matters. Not long ago they decided to put the word Rehabilitation at the end of C.D.C., I think they did it ⁱⁿ really light pencil and did it only so look good because there really ARE NO rehabilitative programs in all prisons. Plus they do their best to stir up the population and create problems. The truth is they really don't want people to get out and be successful, that loses money - the more people in prison, coupled with more violence and overpaid guards the more money they can get. So if you want to really change here and become somebody better the people who run the place make it really hard and throw up as many obstacles and roadblocks as they can think of.

The plan is to lock-up, treat 'em like animals, Soothe the already present anger and resentment and make those animal-like traits that all humans possess the dominant trait so that when a guy is released ¹² into your neighbourhood he's set