

# This Old Dog

For those that are well applied to mindfulness, don't indulge in what should not be done, persist in what should be. The police are killing us. . . so, now what?

Some will think I am wrong for some of the things I am about to say, but as it goes: "If not me, who? If not now, when?" If we do not learn, grow, and move forward with and for each other, then we will lack the ability to change these issues. We cannot continue to think of, and see, this as a color issue, an ethnicity issue, a race issue, when, at its very core, it is an issue of class, social division, and a humanity issue. Calling it so should in no way devalue it. In fact, to use these new perspectives would make it more of a people issue, an US issue.

If we see each other as seperate groups, as a seperate people, we will not see it as **our** problem. When you come to these issues only representing your cause, how can I see it as our cause? Or, more so, **my** cause?

These deaths are the worst of what we all are as a people. We have all lost so much. Let them not be in vain, but a cause and reason to grow as a people. We can not do this as a seperate people! This country is like a big house. The cities and states are but rooms in this house; **our** house. Do we really want to be a house divided? Is this how we want our house to be? I think not.

We say we will not tolerate hatred, yet we treat each other in the most hateful of ways. We demand respect, yet offer little in return. When terror strikes take place we rush to help with all we can. Yet, the res of the time we treat each other in such a way that terrorists must be laughing at us! **WHAT ARE WE DOING?!** I am not saying we have to hold hands and sing Amazing Grace — 'though, how could that be a bad thing? — but I am saying we must go about this a better way. Divided we fail, united we heal. Fact! How is it that a person sitting in a prison with tears in their heart and soul over seeing police kill people, and pople killing police, sees these things while it appears that others do not?

We can no longer say what kind of house we want; we must **show** what kind of house are. We all know racism and bias take place, and I mean that all the way around. However, we also know much progress has taken place as well. To deny that is to disrespect all those that fought and died for civil rights. And we cannot deny that much must be done by all of us still. If we truly want to see change, we must all make it happen together. Let me lay to rest an old adage; that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. You most certainly can, provided the old dog



is willing to learn them. And that is what we all must be: willing. That starts with first seeing the other person as a fellow human being. How could it be any other way? So, let us stop and do that first.

You better believe that black lives matter!...but you also better believe that we all matter, which means believing that peace in this country we live in, share, and love, matters just as much as we as a people matter to each other. If we say hate, anger, and mistreatment from police is wrong, how can we visit that back upon them and still expect a positive outcome? When has negativity ever resulted in positive changes? Bingo.

We always claim to respect those that keep it real, so let's keep it real. Shooting a cop will not help. Blocking a freeway and stopping regular people from going about their lives will not help. If anything, it only serves to alienate the very people that are willing to help.

Movements today have something no other movement up to this point has had, the single most powerful tool ever effect change: The internet. Let's start using it the right way. The way to do that is to get as many people as you can to use the second most powerful tool for change: The vote. The same grass roots, ground force movement that helped elect President Obama is the very same one that can change the laws that govern our society. Fact!

We, the people, must first create a policy or proposal and let our elected office holders know that if they do not make the changes we need and push forth **our** policies, we will elect someone that will! One of the most important issues of civil rights was the right to vote. Has that power been lost in all this?

How is it that record numbers of people are registered to vote, yet not see that same voting power as a way to make changes happen? How is it that we rally against one issue but not against a system we all know must be fixed?

In the end, Trump will go away, but these troubles we are having will not unless we trump them also. With the vote, we can tell the government to change; not ask it to. We have the power to change it ourselves. Let us cease asking others to do what we can do ourselves. As we have learned, in the end, what you ask to be done for you can be often done to you.

We need to stop this divisiveness and see the other person as one of our own in every way. Let's take the olympics as an example of this much needed unity. We, as a country, will cheer for all our athletes that go forth to represent our nation. Yet, at this very moment, in this very same country, we act like we are separated by language, culture, skin color, religious belief, gender, sexual identity, and neighborhood or city. Let's cheer for the everyday person, who is as



much a part of our country as you or I am. I, as well as the rest of us, cheered for Gabby Douglas as much as I did for Michael Phelps because they both represent me. They both went to show the world the best they could for our country. What kind of country are we giving them to represent?

We need the police to be a part of our community, to walk around the streets, to be there for more than arresting and brutalizing us. The need to show us they are more than just police, that they are our people also. And we, as a people, need to thank the police every day. Thank them for the job they do for us. For risking and giving their lives to keep us safe. We thank our military for the same reason. It's time we thank the police as well.

I am as concerned for black lives as I am for the lives of the police; as much as I am concerned for our country and all our way of life. And the fact that the majority of police killings are against others than blacks, and the majority of black homicides are committed by other blacks matters to me as much as the rest.

Please allow me to end this as I began it; I watch all this from a prison cell with tears in my heart and soul, unable to understand how we don't see the other person unless it's in sports or temporarily, like when a disaster strikes. In asking for change, understanding, and unity, we must be seeing only the wrong and not the right in others. The worst form of miseducation comes from within.

Speaking of right and wrong, I would rather be seen as wrong for trying to go about this the right way, than think I am right for trying to go about this the wrong way.

-In Peace,

Tommy Brennick

And so it is, Tommy. Panem et circenses (Latin: bread and circuses; provision of the means of life and recreation by government to appease discontent). It's a real wonder to me how it is you fail to prognosticate the obvious Marxist intention of the Fourth Estate disturbing the peace under the guise of accountability. Your concentration upon the domestic hoopla merely adds mass to the domestic hoopla, you see? Whereas an actual Ezekiel 33 Watchman would sound the alarm on the Yiddish stratagem of Karl Marx introducing class struggle and dictatorship - ushering in: a classless society. Why don't you read Orwell's ANIMAL FARM and 1984, to glimpse Yiddish ambitions. In Struggle, William Goehler