

8-12-13

# Personal Journal

Human being have a need to be close to other humans - that's why people marry and have families. In an environment - like prison or in the military - we sustain ~~the~~ our sense of touch and our emotional connection through our relationships with our brothers - they become our familiar people we can talk to - look out for one another. Over the years I've lost a lot of my brother through the Co. just wanting to keep moving people around. I get a message from one of them now and then and once and awhile a letter through family. Jimmy's going home in a month. I'm happy for him but I'm going to miss him and I worry about him getting back into trouble after all I was once him and I didn't learn anything either."

8-6-18 There has been smoke filling the air for the last 10 days or so making people like me with COPD have to stay inside but we've still been able to smell the smoke in the dayroom. It has been as if all of California was burning at once. It looks & smells a little better this morning early - I think most of the fires are under control. My heart is open to those who have lost love ones and their homes. If it stays like this at yard call (8AM) I'll go outside for an hour or so - I've really been stare crazy. My tigana I got your messages this week I love. So few people understand poetry - you get it - a poem is a painting or a combination of paintings using words. When you are reading ~~it~~ a mental picture/images should flash in your mind. Daylight outside now and I see no smoke - the news is saying that a light wind is pushing it to the east. The fires are not yet all the way contained so if

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the wind dies we could be back in smoke by evening.

8/6/18

I've been reading a lot of old National Geographics over the last couple of months. Talk about mental pictures from the Caribbean to Venice, to Mars and the Universe - I learned there are animals out there I've never hear of and I watch PBS almost everyday (Red-shanked Douc Langur) : "You do that thing you do that makes me laugh" I watched  country last night I have noticed there are not a lot of music shows on T.V. Not that many years back there was always 2, 3, 4 variety show - they've been replaced with reality shows : The air has been clear of smoke here in the morning but walking to dinner it was thick last night I guess just to remind us that fire are still burning. Today is Monday so I'm going over to try to sign up for some college classes - don't even know what yet - don't even know for sure what they've got - I'll only want one or two classes and I be happy with anything - Now, what do I want to major in? :

8/8/18

There is a high smoke haze this morning almost blocking out the hills beyond the prison. The wind is gone and the smoke has settled down on top of us. Yesterday morning coming back from breakfast the sun was a blood red coming through a thick smoke cloud. Everyone is staying inside and coughing as the smoke is in the buildings, my nose is runny and my inhalers are working overtime. There's not even a fire within 25 miles of the prison. I have to go back over to the school this morning to get signed up for college classes. Jimmy's going home in about 30 days - I'm going to miss

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8/8/18 the kid as if he were my own grandson "hey look at me, look at me, look, look, look"; whenever he's doing something - even trying to dance - always bring a smile to my face - I will especially miss the way he come into the cell evaded telling me about something he just learned and it makes me smile because its something I must have learned when I was about his age. I will be sad to see him go but I will be happy for him. His mother & his sister will be there for him - I hope that's enough. The only thing I've been doing is reading - got like two mags and a book going - a National Geographic mostly about Mars - a Tavar Monthly all about going on in Tavar. I'm reading a book the "25 Greatest Baseball Stories Ever Told" The first story was Abbott & Costello's 'Who's on First' and I remember seeing them doing it on t.v. when I was a kid in the 50's :)

8/11/18

Things are looking up here in Ca. at last at the prison as far as higher education. I went over and filled out an application for admission into three schools. Also filled out for the Financial Aid, both state & federal to pay for the tuition and books and whatever. I won't be able to make the Fall Semester as it starts on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I hope to have all my duck in a roll for the Spring Semester I'm looking at a Bachelor of Arts in Art right now I'm looking at the classes I'll have to take and I think I'll really enjoy most of them: Drawing, Painting, Art History --- all/most of my credits from my A.A. will be accepted so the hard classes are mostly done. California is getting back to believing that the better educated you are the less likely you will get into crime again. They

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8/11/18 are right - people grow up in prison if they get out better educated and with a workable job skill they have a chance. They do need a little help out there, a chance of attitude by John Q.

8/10/18 'Bad air days' they say this will last into Sept., fires everywhere - the smoke blocks or filters the sun so it feel cooler at time humid as hell. The number of people with mental illness in jails and prisons is "astronomical." I would say at least half the people here need some kind of mental treatment, maybe 25% get minimal treatment - back when I tried to get help I could see the phy every 90 days for an hour - after a year it was decided I wasn't a threat to them so I was dropped - No thing I look at it now as it was a waste of my time - I still don't know why - I still get depressed easy - I still worry and today my hands hurt and I feel lost.

Happy Birthday my love, I dream of you everyday, as the light fills my eyes, and your warmth flows from my heart, your smile appear each morning like the sight of the sun rise on the horizon. Enjoy your day my love, enjoy all your days and know that in my heart I am there with you - just close your eyes and smile.