

DEAR TENZIN,

REPLY ID: yfaq

12-8-19

HEY! IT'S NICE TO HEAR FROM YOU AGAIN!
YOUR RIGHT, A PEACE OF MIND IS WHAT FINANCIAL STABILITY GIVES ME. AS LONG AS MY NECESSITIES ARE SATISFIED I CAN RELAX. DO WHAT I WANT INSTEAD OF WHAT I HAVE TO. FOR EXAMPLE, IN HERE I DRAW A LOT, NOT BECAUSE I WANT TO BUT BECAUSE I HAVE TO. IN ORDER TO GET BARE ESSENTIALS MY PRISON DOESN'T GIVE INMATES TO START WITH. SO I SPEND HOURS ON A PICTURE AND WALKS AWAY WITH ENOUGH FOOD FOR 1 OR 2 SNACKS. OR 7-10 HOURS ON ART FOR ENOUGH TO GET A DEODORANT THAT'LL LAST ME A MONTH. I'VE LOST MY PASSION FOR IT. BECAUSE I "HAVE" TO DO IT. AND, WELL, FOR SUCH A CHEAP PRICE. I HAVE 2 CHOICES. I CHOOSE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. BUT EVERY NOW & THEN I'LL FIND A DAY OR 2 THAT I CAN WORK ON SOMETHING I WANT TO. THAT ART IS ALWAYS SO MUCH BETTER. I'M ENJOYING IT. AND I KNOW THE PERSON I GIVE IT TO WILL AS WELL. — BUT YES, WHENEVER I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SIMPLE NECESSITIES IS WHEN I HAVE THE PEACE I AIM TO ACQUIRE. I'M A SIMPLE GUY. I DIDN'T GROW UP WITH MONEY EITHER. MY FAMILY BARELY SCRAPED BY. AND WE HAD GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE. SO MY MENTAL DEVELOPEMENT ON THE VALUE OF MONEY IS TO SPEND IT ON WHAT'S

NECESSARY. A \$200,000 WATCH IS A CRAZY WASTE OF MONEY. BUT... IT'S THEIR MONEY. I WOULDN'T EVEN BUY A HOUSE THAT'S TOO BIG TO ME, A HOME IS ABOUT SAFETY & COMFORT. IF I WANT A GLASS OF WATER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT I DON'T WANT TO WALK SO LONG IT WAKES ME UP, YOU KNOW. MY ONE VICE IF I WERE RICH WOULD BE AUTOMOBILES. I LIKE SPEED. BUT EVEN THEN I'D BE METHODOICAL ON HOW I SPENT MONEY ON IT. I EXPENSIVE CAR, ENJOY IT FOR A MONTH OR SO * TRADE IT IN, SWAP IT OUT, SELL IT BEFORE THE PRICE DETERIORATES. SOMETIMES I THINK OF THE "WHAT IF'S" OF LIFE. "WHAT IF" EVERYONE WHO WAS SO RICH THEY HAD MORE MONEY THAN THEY COULD SPEND, DONATED THEIR EXTRA MONEY TO A CAUSE... LIKE ENDING STARVATION/HOMELESSNESS OR FINDING/CREATING A CURE FOR CANCER OR OTHER DISEASES... WHAT IF, RIGHT? 🤔

YOUR WORDS REMIND ME OF A RECENT CONVERSATION I'VE HAD AND A BOOK I READ, "TAO TE CHING" BY DR. WAYNE DYER. I THINK THAT'S THE AUTHOR'S NAME IN IT HE HAD A QUOTE THAT STUCK WITH ME: "ALL THINGS CHANGE FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT, THEREFORE THERE IS NOTHING TO HOLD ON TO. BY NOT FEARSING DEATH THERE IS NOTHING I CANNOT ACHIEVE." I HOPE I QUOTED THAT ACCURATELY. I UNDERSTAND ITS MEANING. AND IT'S CLEAR THAT YOU DO AS WELL. MORESO THAN I. THIS SUMS UP YOUR INTERPRETATION

A DIFFERENCE. THANKS FOR BRINGING IT TO MY ATTENTION.

SOMETHING ELSE YOU SAID STANDS OUT. "PERHAPS DEATH ROW EXTENDED YOUR LIFE, IN AN IRONIC WAY?" I HAVE ECHOED THAT MANY TIMES IN THE LAST DECADE. AND THE FACT IS, YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S NOT A MAYBE BUT IS A PROBABLY DID EXTEND MY LIFE. ALL THE PARRYING I WAS DOING, THE DANGER I WAS TOO COMFORTABLE WITH BEING IN, IT'S PROBABLE I'VE LIVED MUCH LONGER THAN I WOULD HAVE IF I WERE FREE THE WHOLE TIME. AND IN THIS TIME I'VE ALSO BECOME SOMEONE I DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE BECOME WITHOUT THIS STRUGGLE. I'VE MATURED GREATLY, MORALLY & INTELLECTUALLY. & SPIRITUALLY. I LIKE TO THINK THAT I'VE BECOME THE MAN I WOULD HAVE BECOME IF I HAD THE RIGHT UPBRINGING. THE MAN I ALWAYS HAD INSIDE OF ME BUT COULDN'T BECOME BECAUSE LIFE WASN'T ABOUT BEING ME, IT WAS ABOUT WHO I HAD TO BE.

YOU'VE GIVEN ME A LOT OF ADVICE IN THIS LETTER. THANKS YOU. IT'S WORTHY OF BEING READ MANY TIMES TO ACQUIRE THIS KNOWLEDGE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU AGAIN! TAKE CARE!

YOURS TRULY,
DOUG