

"A Criminal End"

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Prison has a way of sometimes helping one find another path, one that is seemingly reachable that one could not see beforehand from the offense that has one there locked away. If I were to tell you this correspondence is being written by one man who has at 50 years of age no high school diploma or G.E.D. could you believe it? Prison for me today is demoralizing and it has no place in my efforts to fulfill in life anymore. I've been called "an habitual criminal" one who has not the mind frame to learn after three state prison sentences for doing the same thing over and over again. Gladly I can say today what I feel in my heart "that it's over". For some of us it takes authority to put forth efforts for authority to literally want to lock us away for the rest of our lives in order to learn it's time to put an end to the madness.

I've found a bit of myself this trip with a new sentence that will soon come to an end that I do have the skills to be a better person and I do have the capabilities mentally to finish my life on a good note. I don't know why it's taken me so long to reach the realization of this but I guess it's better late than never. Maybe it's because I have reach an older state of mind or maybe I'm just tired of doing the same thing over and over in my life. It could be a little of both. I do still have concerns about where I'm going when I get out of here and that concern is, I'm going back to the same poverty stricken neighborhood in society where I came from in the beginning. Scary, is what it is to me, adversity lurks and awaits my return. Where I come from difficulty is a normal thing, trying to get ahead without stepping on other's toes will be one of the hardest tasks I'll face yet. I come from West Philadelphia, a city with a very high criminal activity rate and one of the highest homicide rates on the country because of that same poverty where struggles for just about everyone is in effect.

Pennsylvaina's prison system can not prepare me for this, first they have no control over the poverty just keeping us incarcerated until it sees that I am fit to return. No program, No halfway house can simulate what's happening where I come from nor can any of those same programs distinguish how

to respond where I come from. Society has it's views on how one should react to issues inside of the way lives are governed on a daily basis long before me. Our adversities inside of my community are responded to much, much differently than other societies and the rules are much different on how you answer or respond.

For the first time in my life I have a real plan thanks to this incarceration sentence, I'm not happy to be here but I am learning and I have another plan, one that may just very well become a reality as long as I fight through the normal struggles I am going to face once released again. I owe myself an honest try this trip because I know the outcome of being arrested again with the type of crime I once not long ago was called an "habitual criminal" for. I've let so much get away in my life where I lost alot of people, places and things that meant the world to me at one time or another, a new start and fresh start is in view for me thanks to this prison sentence so for me this trip prison has saved me in more ways than one.

I'd like to thank The American Prison Writing Archives for allowing myself and inmates, people all across the country to be able to offer the public with our views of prison and what it does to you inside and out. I welcome anyone with an opinion with feedback that will inspire me to do better. I have the will to become a active modivational speaker in criminal behavior, soon I will offer society a chance to listen to a career criminal of past in efforts of helping another overcome sooner than later.

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