A Flawed Thesis: The Sacrifice of Creation

By: Dan Lewis

"If you can’t follow the rules in here, how can you out there?"

Is a person incapable of living a crime free life in society as a result of said person choosing to occupy his time in Prison by crafting? Am I incapable because I gave food to a inmate who has nothing and nothing and in doing so, broke the rules? Is a person incapable of living a successful life in society without being prone to violence as a result to them choosing to physically fight to protect themselves from being raped while in prison, instead of doing what the Prison Rules & Policies instruct when faced with this situation, which is to say, "No" or "Stop it now."? To induce the rape, to be a victim to maybe multiple people until they’re done with you and you can try to leave to report it to Staff as blood, shit and semen runs from out of your anus and down your leg? Does fighting back make
one any less capable of being a good citizen upon release? Does it make you more prone to violence? — Being aware of how officials think in regards to the Thesis, I’ve put in effort to abide by all the major rules in prison and to be aware of what rules aren’t normally enforced. For a while, I’ve been looking at it from the view of the Thesis, thinking that if I walk the straight and narrow, it will show officials and myself that I’m truly better than I used to be. That I learned a lesson in my tragic mistake and chose to carry on learning by trying to improve myself. I became brainwashed by the Thesis into thinking that I can never amount to anything unless others in ‘power determines that I can’. I was brainwashed before; But I now see the truth. I don’t need their approval! I don’t need it, for me to be somebody. I’m no less of a human,
my potential to be a good citizen is made no less by my passion
to sew or craft APA dice or having the compassion to help
someone who has nothing or the courage to stand up for myself
against injustices. Imagine going 13 years drothing every (i) and
crossing every (+) to doing everything by the book, neglecting your
values, crafts, beliefs, your body all so that you may go that 13
years without an infraaction; for that’s what it would take 13 years
of being dead, of doing dead-time, of being soulless. For what!? An, Patt on the back, here goes your monies and a Bus ticket and
a “have a nice day” ! What makes us human is our ability to be
passionate about some things; our tendency to make mistakes and having
the conscience to learn from them. Being passionate about Something
doesn’t make it right; but by understanding Right From Wrong, one can .
Choose which passions to pursue. Despite sewing not being permitted, I like to do it. (I'm a hell of a cobbler.) Not because I want to show disregard for the rules, but because sewing is a skill of creation in a positive way that brings harm to none. Sewing is a profession that can lead to a beautiful, productive career and it isn't banned to one person in society; so why should it be banned to me? Afraid I might try to 'poke' someone? - Things that are acceptable in society, isn't it in prison. In NC, prisons, inmates can't possess dice because the 'powers-that-be' say they encourage 'gambling.' Yet, we can purchase from canteen Aviator 'Poker' cards. I write this to express that the cost to following every little rule will be your humanity. If one lets the system work on them the way the administrators intend it
to, the prison system will take everything from them, stripping them
down from the inside, leaving an empty shell in its place, that's
incapable of functioning independently. A vegetable. Making that
sacrifice would probably be worth it if it could get one out of
prison early, but it can't. An inmate could learn their lesson 100 x
Over, be a Monk's idol; but they'll still be here to stay.