

## Damn America

Damn America... In regards to the corrective process in the departments of corrections I offer the following: My cellie went on what's known as an 'outcount' for surgery. While utilizing the facilities he found that he did not know how to flush the toilet. He moved to wash his hand after giving up on flushing the toilet only to find out that the toilet flushed automatically, he was astonished. To some, this may seem trivial and you'd be right but to me, I count it as a damn shame. For my cellie? Not at all. To the system that has taken him so far from society that something as trivial as a motion sensor escaped his understanding and to his credit he is well read and quite intelligent. This evoked in me a question, how can you expect him or even me to return to society after spending decades incarcerated where technology as trivial as a motion sensor escaped him and many like him. I'm glad to have a decent level of learning and comprehension because that has equipped me with a high level of intelligence and an insatiable urge to never come back to prison. This urge has spurred me to seek education, prior to and during my prison term that will and can always aid me in never returning. But America, for those whom this urge and understanding escapes, how can you expect for them to produce within you when your corrective institutions provide, in most cases, very little meaningful correction or education. Many of us want to learn but what have you taught us? Have your staff lead by example? In the least. They are often criminals themselves. They kick and degrade us, us who will likely return to be their neighbor.

Some of us want to develop compassion but it is difficult in the face of oppression and degradation. For decades we endure this. Coming from crime, drugs, addiction and an underserved educational system we are locked down, given only what we've gotten or less. How America do you expect us to endure so much for so long and overcome better than before. Some, like me, can and WILL because of this insatiable urge to never return but we are few and far between. Suffering from mental illnesses to begin with, how do you expect us to change when we are not helped... or do you? How America shall we overcome or are you asking too much of us while providing too little to us.

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