

A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

A DIAMOND IS FORMED WHEN A LUMP OF SEEMINGLY WORTHLESS CARBON IS SUBJECTED TO YEARS OF EXTREME PRESSURE - THOUSANDS OF POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH, OVER MANY, MANY YEARS...AND AS A RESULT A HARD, SHINY AND VALUABLE "GEM" IS CREATED.

SIMILARLY, A BLACK MAN, LIKE THAT WORTHLESS BLACK PIECE OF COAL, OFTENTIMES LIVES A LIFE UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE. THE RESULTING "HARDNESS" OF HIS EXTERIOR MAY BE OFF PUTTING TO SOME. NEVERTHELESS, WHAT MANY DO NOT REALIZE, IS THAT HARDNESS REPRESENTS "STRENGTH OF CHARACTER," THE SHINE, A "BEAUTY FROM WITHIN" WHICH CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED, AND "A SOUL OF INESTIMABLE VALUE" - JUST LIKE A COVETED GEM.

NOW, WHEN YOU SEE ME AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS OF HEARTACHE AND PAIN, ALL OF THAT PRESSURE, I WILL NOT THANK YOU. YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MY GROWTH OR MY WORTH... I ALWAYS WAS A DIAMOND. GIVE THANKS TO THE MASTER JEWEL MAKER!

- Shane Greene