

November 6, 2019

Look at Me

In this climate of prison reform
I'm tryin' something out of the norm
No, I'm not housed in a dorm
Or anything like minimum
I'm in a facility that's medium
Amongst various levels of criminals
I am an individual
Puttin' work in
Hoping my work can
Deliver the outcome
To get me out from
Circumstances that's miserable
Still, I keep my head up high
Keep my head to the sky
Like Earth, Wind, and Fire
My containment will allow me to experience earth and wind, but not fire
So it's with the strongest desire
That I continue to write
I continue to fight
To bring attention to my situation
So I can get back to life
One without guard shack where I'm subject to frisk
And shake downs
I want to use my experience to become an activist
To bring recidivism and mass incarceration way down
I'm doing something out of the norm
Writing these poems
Producing these books
So folks can have a look at what's going on
Now I see Kim K. on T.V.
As well as Meek Mills and Jay-Z
Trying to help guys like me
But I only know a few guys like me
Who are putting the work in

Trying to make certain
That when people start searchin'
For who's a good candidate to be helped to get released
They'll look at me
My actions can speak for me
Check my jacket
My track record
What do you see?
I've formed habits
In the midst of madness
Impressive of not just a confined man
But of even one in society
I just want to be free
Let me be of service and offer the youngins something that wasn't offered to me
Yea, we have to reform prisons
But my real concern is out in the streets
Why do I have to catch them here for youth programs after they're already in correctional
facilities?
I ask for you to let me to be of use in the community
I ask that if you want to help someone get free
That you choose an asset
Look at me!

Live from the Pen,
J.S. Russell