

One Sky, Many Destinies

While living under the difficult circumstances of incarceration I would not have been able to grasp the idea of one sky, many destinies, especially dealing with my carceral state, early into my bid. The idea of many destinies seemed foreign to me and only for a privilege group (i.e. Wealthy people). My lack of education and ignorance would not allow me to see further beyond my current situation. My vision of destiny was minimal from coming to prison and me fighting to get, and everything in between was invisible to my sight though it was transpiring before my very own eyes. The thought of my life being auctioned off due to my traumatic life experiences only persisted in thinking about one thing-Freedom. Though I'm not making excuses for the hurt I caused to so many just giving an expanded view that was not considered in any of my court appearances. However, I was not aware on how my life experiences negatively effected my own destiny, and understood my life events as normal. And I wonder if my life is similar to the privileged group; probably not?

Years later and further into my academic career I still have not come to terms with the idea of "One Sky, Many destinies." It would not be until I took Music Appreciation that I would be challenged on my view on destiny beyond what is tangible. After many class sessions and reflection on destinies my perception started to expand on the concept of one sky, many destinies. My understanding of destiny became broader and clearer that I started t

to question destiny and it's reach. Destiny is beyond linear, it is not something that goes from point A to point B but far more complex and beautiful. My idea of destiny is a multi component that leads different choices, outcomes, opportunities and consequences both good and bad. I began to reflect on my own personal life and how destiny played a part. I was able to examine how one choice and moment/event lead to a series of other choices and events that would take me to another junction of my life. For instance, being sentenced to a second degree life sentence which landed me in the clutches of the state penitentiary. I could have chosen to deepen my circumstances by perpetuating the ignorant cycle that lead me to this prison term or I could choose to change. Therefore, I choose the latter which lead me to an education, a healthy, productive, progressive self-growth and lifestyle even in my current situation. Through this conscious decision to further my education another destiny was created that allowed me to create other healthy and positive pathways, or destinies. The question remains did I create my own destiny or was it already established and I just needed to make the correct choice? But does it really matter if I did or didn't create my own destiny; perhaps, the most important matter is that I would not become what society thought would become of me-loss, confused, ignorant or a criminal. In a nutshell, one destiny leads to another and another, destiny is not simplistic or narrow but the very opposite.

When we think of the prison industrial complex and destiny then we can understand how the creation of a oppressive, disenfranchising and marginalizing machine was created and how it expanded.

The mechanics designed the prison industrial complex machine to lead to another form of oppression leading to another destiny. With the expectation of liquidating and exterminating people of color from society since the invention of the institution of chattel slavery. All the evidence points to the history of each created destiny from slavery, slave patrols, Jim Crow, vacancy laws, civil rights movement to presently mass incarceration. One destiny led to the next; however, each destiny was designed for the next, and to state that "it just happened" would be ignorant and naive. Rather it should be understood that each destiny of this matter was pre-meditated.

"Many Destinies" could also be explained that all of humanity have their own individual destiny, or destinies, and that we share the world (One Sky). Therefore, a person's destiny is shared with the rest of the world and our destinies are intertwined in some capacity. Considering Martin Luther King Jr.'s long fight for equality and his destiny impacted many other destinies. Or any historical revolution and how many destinies was effected by the people involved in this revolution (their own destiny, right!) whether good or bad; perhaps, countless. Our destinies are meant to meet those people in our lives or their actions are meant to effect or change our own destinies.

Here there is no why,
Why I'm here
I can't share really why,
It will drown in the deepest part of the sea
so you will never see,
Or hear why,
If you did I would wonder if you the reason why
I'm doing more time cuz I shared why,
I grew up never to explain why
becuz it was to close to telling,
And bound by unwritten laws to stay away from sharing,
Therefore, why get upset when they don't answer why,
Guess its me trying to rationalize with the irrational about why,
There looks confuse me when I ask them why
painful about this whole process,
The 14th amendment due process
does not apply, when I ask why,
why no why
though why is important
to the process,
to who how, what when, where
forever and never to know what lies there
perplexed to their stare,
no why
just confuses us to why there's no why,
When in all actuality we know
Here there is no why!

A handwritten mark or signature, possibly initials, consisting of a vertical line with a small circle and a flourish at the top.

I pray that you receive these words in the best possible health
imaginable & that all your wishes come to pass...

It seems that...

as I get shorter my sentence of 13 yrs, 162 mths, 4,860 days,
116,640 hours & [6,998,400 minutes] I start to end with
When I'm home

Like when I'm home,

I'll visit such & such,

& do things that I never did as much,

When I'm home

They'll never see me

just like they never came to see me,

Not a card, Not a letter,

Hopefully, things will get better,

When I'm home

& they say things like "O' I can't wait till your home"

but why you not here when I'm all alone,

why I have to use my dime & still you don't answer the phone

Hopefully things will get better

When I'm home

& I turn to my side to hide the tears

tear-stained face due to all these years

Praying for your scent to come thru in a letter

Hopefully things will get better

When I'm Home

If you can't tell

I'm angry & upset

Cuz I ain't home

a place I can't own

left to my own thoughts of what I should tell her,
hopefully things will get better
when I'm home

the trauma is sketched into my brain

PTSD increases the pulse thru my vein

& sudden moves make my neck snap

Tears form under the corner of my eye lid when I have flashbacks

hopefully things will get better

when I'm home

They put me in there to rehabilitate,

Now I'm out I have to rehabilitate,

After being there ..

My demeanor is foreign that is why I get the awkward stare

bare-footed as the grass separates my toes

Trees & Nature, therapeutic & a de-stressor to memories of foes,

I miss those sweet kisses that soothed our souls

still hurtin inside; this letter prays for a letter

& hopefully things will get better

when I'm home - 10

Sincerely Yours,

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