

A Juvenile Rehabilitated (Second Chances for Juveniles)

As a youth, we're not equipped with divine understanding of what it means to be a leader, humane. Only through trial and error do we come to know and understand the importance of our existence - our soul - our spirituality. Within this spiritual enlightenment, we come to accept and acknowledge the effects of our choices. Therefore accepting our fate in the world.

As a youth, we search blindly to fill a void of the very things we take for granted, such as compassion, companionship, friendship, family, loyalty and love, only to be substituted by the very things that plague our nation and our communities today.

By God's design, man is equipped with many imperfections with no sin greater than the next. Yet, far too many are eager to judge, exploit and turn their backs on the ignorant and spiritually blind for no reason other than to satisfy the new "norms" of society, which will have us believe and act as if the future and lives of our youth have no place in the world when they make decisions that the enlightened would not. Again, no man is perfect and neither am I.

There was a time when the leaders of our communities were not only role models, but disciplinarians of our youth. It was a calling. A duty that one took pride in. These same leaders are now scarce, which allows this injustice to plague our communities and youth to run rampant; free of restrictions that once were pivotal. The same injustices that are now sweeping our nation with rapid and brutal force reflecting that black lives don't matter. This reflection couldn't be farther from the truth.

But it's never too late to regain our foothold, standing up and being accountable. God gives us that strength to overcome all things that do not sit well with us. We have our battle gear and as part of God's army, we are equipped to deal with the injustices within our communities. But first, we must realize that there is a problem.

And so arises the question of who is lament. No one can tell you this story better than I can. But I am a man who's genuine at heart though I've been through a lot. I have

to die at the hands of another. For that, I can earnestly say that I am truly sorry without being selfish, self-centered, irresponsible and immature.

That was then and still I am a work in progress; Flawed yet making amends by accepting responsibility for such a careless, senseless and reckless act, which cost Yoshida, his life.

I had to find it within myself to decide if I wanted salvation because my soul was hurting and by finding myself, I found God, again, setting myself right because the love that I sought was the love that I had overlooked throughout my youth. And for the last 23 years, I've grown, matured, become dependable, responsible and developed a sense of being and an identity I am proud of.

Even with my flaws, I know God will keep me strong and faithful on my journey. And so, I am a man who has changed for the better and I've never forgotten my past because it's the fuel that feeds the fire that burns within me, today. I am understanding, compassionate, sympathetic and in tune with my spirituality, which gives me the strength and direction to become a better man tomorrow, than I was yesterday.

This is my story and it matters to me. I am rehabilitated and believe I deserve a second chance in society.

Sincerely,
Lamont

Lamont
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