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Will I ever have equal freedom?

Introduction

I've been tasked with explaining what I believe is important to me, as well as discussing how the American Government relates to these feelings. After some deep reflection, I realize that several things come to mind: my family, the race I am classified, my gender and how I am represented in this nation of ours.

The American Government is supposed to provide equal protection for all its citizens. Unfortunately, I believe a poor job is being done in this regard. It seems that the protection that is provided is only given when it suits the governments' needs. Otherwise, the very tenets that this country was built on, the ideals and ideologies of whom and what is important continues to be the face of this great nation.

In this brief essay, I will attempt to explain why I feel this way, what role I may play in the way the government treats those of my ilk, and why I see no immediate change coming anytime soon.

I don't know who coined the phrase that experience is one of life's greatest teachers, yet whoever it was/is happens to be correct. Why do I say this? The lens that I see the world through is different of other inhabitants of the United States of America. I come from a lineage of struggle and strife. I derive from a people that built the infrastructure of this nation literally from the sweat off their backs. They may sound as if I am being venomous, but I am not. I know of no other ways to explain what is important to me without first expressing what I am and how I came to be.

I am a black man who was raised by a strong willed southern woman. I was taught that family is everything and that I have to work hard in life to achieve what I want because "not nobody gonna give us nothing," as my momma would say. Growing up in the 1970's while battling the Jim Crow laws, life was difficult for me. Not because I was