

From the Hellholes of Incarceration to a Future of Emancipation

"...opening my eyes to a new way..."

Greetings RCP

First I must give thanks where thanks are due for opening my eyes to a new way and for information mainstream media does not provide.... I've made my share of mistakes that's why I sit here now. But I'm on the back side of my time now. I will be out within the next two years and I've been looking for something that would give my life meaning, a direction. Then a buddy of mine let me read one of his *Revolutions*: Sept. 21, 2008, *Communism: The Beginning of a New Stage, A Manifesto from the RCP, USA*. I don't know if life changing is the word. But really changed my way of thinking and how I look at this so called government and this society that we are living in. I started to look at my own personal beliefs and the things I was taught or told to believe in and I didn't like what I saw. I really started to question a lot of things. I still have a ton of questions but I'm informed now and I now have a stepping stone to start my search for answers and most important "a change for the better." I believe in something important "a change for the better." Something we all need as a society and for that you have my full support...

With Solidarity And Thanks,
One Who Has Nothing To Lose But My Chains.

"...a deep desire ... to understand the world"

Revolution began to open my eyes to a whole other way that society could be organized and a whole other way of thinking. Instead of focusing intently on revenge and my own personal oppression or wrongs, I began to see that this capitalist-imperialist system is fundamentally based on the exploitation and oppression of the vast majority of humanity at the hands of the few within the ruling class who own and control the means of production. And that the basis exists to emancipate all of humanity from the oppressive relations of class undreamed of under the confines of this capitalist system....

There is a deep desire among prisoners broadly to understand the world. *Revolution* newspaper is a vital resource that not just allows prisoners to understand the world, but to *become part of changing it as they change themselves*—to become part of putting revolution and communism back on the map, to popularize the pathbreaking work in reenvisioning communism that Bob Avakian has done, and to bring forward a core of people dedicated to building this revolutionary movement.

Joe Veale writes to prisoners:

Down in the "hole," the "stripped cells," the entire tier is quiet listening to a 19-year-old and myself (who was 23 at the time)—as we put Plato's *Republic* to a critical analysis. Discussing, dissecting, and demonstrating how the views in the book reflect those of someone who is a defender and philosopher for slavery. We had only recently begun to study some communist theory and we were using what we had learned to break down Plato's *Republic*—breakdown why philosophers like him are so loved by the defenders of the capitalist system.

At one point my 19-year-old friend breaks out in roaring laughter. When I asked why was he laughing—he explained and exclaimed: "...here we are the so-called 'worst of the worst' (this was said and meant in every sense by those who held us)—they've put us in the most extreme conditions in this prison in an attempt to break us down and beat us down—and here we are not only discussing but critiquing Plato—showing how he and Socrates did not represent the interest of the people but the interest of a slave system!"

The Revolution We Need

[T]his article [*Revolution* #170, "The Revolution We Need... The Leadership We Have"] sounded much like a conversation I had with one of the people here in which we were just discussing this whole sham of land of the free! And having cookouts on July 4th and all that Americana mumbo jumbo but in reality there is not a damn thing to celebrate about this racist country or its genocidal birth! This system is rotten to its core; "democracy" is but a cheap coat of shellac, it looks glossy and nice but when you flip it over you see its underbelly is mere rancid innards. Those of us in prisons across the U.S. understand the dialectics with this country's so-called democracy very well, we learn of its mechanics through our painful introduction to its injustice system....

In the article it speaks of, "For a revolution, there must be a revolutionary people among all sections of society but with its deepest base among those who catch hell every day under this system." We have nothing to lose but our chains. But even here it takes transformation to grasp the true nature of our conditions. I have come to see over the years that this newspaper is an excellent educational, people building organizational tool within the prison system, with it dialogue has opened, seeds have been planted and lines have been sharpened on many fronts.

"...never read about this in junior high..."

As I began to become caught in the prison trap, time spent in the "hole" began to be time to read, learn and study. I began to read my own history of Latin America and the many *Revolutions* and struggles; this led me to take up *Revolutions* worldwide and realize that *every* Liberation struggle for the most part was fought against U.S. backed Regimes. This was *eye opening!* as I thought, "I never read about this in Jr. High..." I realized this history had been kept from me all my life as Bob Avakian says I had "been locked out of politics" and so naturally wanted to learn more! I realized that my lumpen lifestyle was time lost with misdirected anger and that the years of police terror of night sticks, mace and the heel of the boot finally gave painful birth to a Revolutionary! ...

I have been receiving *Revolution/Revolutionary Worker* for about 8 years now, this has been possible through the PRLF and people's donations—power to the people! Thus the people themselves have made it possible to send me *Revolutionary* nutrients. I in turn have shared my papers over the years with all I've come in contact with in all the prison general populations, holes and control units and planted hundreds if not thousands of revolutionary seeds, so please *do not* feel as if your efforts/donations are a waste in any way as *Revolutionary* shoots are sprouting, though sporadic, they are consistent! I am living example of this development!

La Lucha Continua

To support the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund and to read the complete letters visit revcom.us and prisonersrevolutionaryliteraturefund.org.