

Do I really matter? Am I human? Am I an animal? Or am I a savage? Does my life mean anything?... A Question of Race in America

By Demetrius Harper

July 24, 2013

Am I invisible to you? Do I really matter? Am I human? Am I an animal? Or am I a savage? Does my life mean anything? These questions get answered everyday as people choose to come to a true answer or a prejudice one; a racist one! As I was working out in prison for a crime my brothers and I DID NOT commit, someone yells over to me and "Says Harp, they are about to read the Trayvon verdict!" I had a uneasy feeling, like I already knew what was about to happen, and when the moment came for individual jurors to make the right choice, justice fell in the streets of America, once again..... This has been a horrifying trend for many African Americans on a daily basis, one that I feel every morning when I wake up in prison in Florence, CO, away from my family, away from my friends and those you know without of shadow of doubt that my brothers and I are innocence.

During the last few weeks of Trayvon Martin trial, there are 3 people that know exactly what happened that fateful night, one is still alive walking free (in spite of killing another; a child), one is dead, the other one is the God that saw all the evidence and knows the very intent of each heart that night. This theme, this recurring theme is like a never-ending nightmare, one African American child killed, Why??? because he was first African-American. In our story, 5 African American's, one Caucasian in prison, Why??? Because we were black and the lone Caucasian, because he believed in the 'vision'; was included to try to take away the awful stench of what I see everyday, 'RACISM'. Yes I want you to say it out loud, "RACISM". I want every person that might read this to feel the word. To see it, to touch it, to ultimately feel it.... We feel it everyday, we are the IRP6, a band of brothers who believed in the American Dream, of hard work, resiliency, perseverance and determination. Our goal was to help our Law Enforcement community with software that would 'Change the World', but the dream as we are learning is for only a select few.

I am invisible? Am I considered to a human or less than?

Just like the Trayvon Martin case, you had witnesses who told you what they assumed/thought/believed/interpreted and the jury extrapolated from there. We heard from the defense in the Martin case that the jury needs 'To take out common sense'. Are the American people that naive, to do such a thing? Justice and law enforcement officials in the IRP6 case needed to answer one simple question, the question is "IRP is writing software for law enforcement, working hand-and-hand with former FBI agents and ICE (Immigration and Customs) to commit fraud? Please use common sense! When someone wants to believe something he or she will take into account what they perceive and/or feel (preconceived notions) and discard common sense. Please explain to me how, a man says a teenager beat him and slammed his head repeatedly and bludgeoned his nose, with NO DNA to be found on his person/clothes. Again common sense, or to deduce the fact that no DNA was on Trayvon, his blood still cries from the grave, that something else happened that fateful night.

For the IRP6, one question was asked to several government witnesses, "Did Demetrius Harper or Clint Stewart tell you that IRP had a contract?" Well (keep in mind this is a simple yes or no answer). The responses were mind-blowing: I thought, I assumed, I believed or I interpreted that they had a

contract. So we are indicted and then convicted because a false statement was allegedly made, but when you get in court and find out that the witnesses that were told to corroborate with the government's assertion, because if government witnesses told the truth, there would be no case! So let's consider the second most obvious question, "If they assumed/thought/believed/interpreted that they WERE told IRP had a contract, the next common sense question would be what?

How much is the contract worth?
Or how long is the contract for?

Not at one time did any of the government witnesses say in court that those questions were considered. Again use common sense; that overwhelming would be question that would be worth asking! When you have cases with Caucasians you see lighter sentences/less conviction's/ and in some cases no convictions at all. All the IRP6 ever wanted was no special treatment, just to be treated like everyone else, to be visible, to be treated like a human being, see me as man, not a black man. But as one Leslie-Ann Greenfield (government witness) stated, -- Please look up here exact quote: "That I was articulate, well-spoken and professional, so in common speak, for a black man I was articulate, well-spoken and acted in a professional manner. This should not be the case. Martin Luther King Jr. said all people black or white should be judged by the content of one's character, not the color of one's skin.

I still hope for justice in our case, the IRP6, as well I pray that justice comes for Trayvon Martin and his family.... My thoughts and prayers are with their family. God is the righteous judge and will always stand in truth and judgment. I hope in the future the people of this country wake up and stand against the racial prejudice that reeks in our history and exists even as I speak. United we stand, divided we fall. If we don't unity what will be of this country in the coming years? Remember it's a choice.

Am I invisible? Can my son Braylon Harper, be Trayvon Martin? Am I human? Am I an animal or savage or am I a man?