

“Help Wanted”

As long as psychological prisons exist, a world without prisons will always be a fantasy. The world we live in today is saturated with prisons—social, religious, economic, racial, national, and educational divides—and the girth of these ideological prison bars are growing thicker and thicker by the hour, as we incarcerate ourselves within their “prescribed” limitations. Turn on any media source today and one would have to be comatose to not observe the increasingly loud, obnoxious clamor emitting from the ever-growing construction sites of the ideological prison contractors. Divisive racial and political party-line developers who are not only imprisoning the minds of the masses through their rhetoric but whose toxic worldviews are funding the very tangible, brick and mortar prisons behind which I and so many other millions of poor, disenfranchised, lower-caste individuals across the world find themselves in.

Yet, as Americans, the concrete cubicles we have become so comfortable with encapsulating our citizens in, and have come to accept as a commonality in our society, are not the sole creation of any one particular group, party, or socio-economic class. No, instead they are the product of all our own making. The democrat-republican, Christian-atheist, rich and the poor alike.

For just as “we the people” have decided to accept the tenets of a constitution which espouses a mutual interest in “freedom and justice for all,” so too have we seemingly made a silent, unanimous decision that despite all our wealth, intelligence, and resourcefulness, ignorance—with all its fruits of aberrancy—shall be our number one gross domestic product. A product, which we have vastly exported around the world in abundance.

Yes, and it is from the raw material of that domestic product (e.g. racism, xenophobia, slavery, imprisonment) that we have truly built the wall. The walls of separation, isolation, and insensitivity that incarcerates us all—in one way or another—both the physically imprisoned and the presumed free. And until these psychological/immaterial walls fall and their constructions cease, the physical/concrete cubicle prisons you see before you stretched all across this nation will forever serve to be but a symbolic representation of the proverbial “boxes” within which each of us have limited our minds to.

As such, there is only one solution if ever we desire to see a world without prisons—mental emancipation. Yet this mental emancipation must be coupled with innovation if it is to maintain its liberty and not recidivate. Innovation in our public school systems, in our social assistance for single and at-risk parents, in our after-school youth group programs for the lower economic communities. Innovation in our approach to dealing with psychological illness, drug use and addiction, in our intervention in youth, young adult and first-time offenders, in our corrective methods for re-socializing the anti-social, and in our overall worldview, not only as Americans but as the international role models that we are.

These are the sort of innovations which must accompany our mental liberation from the boxes of structuralism that our minds have been held in for so long, if our new houses, our new worlds, of freedom are to stand. And it is towards the advocating and group enlightening of these aims that I, along with so many emancipated others, am building on—one liberating brick of understanding at a time—towards the reconstruction of a world without prisons.

The *Help Wanted* signs are everywhere; on this site, in the community, and maybe even in you home—with no experience needed Love, open-mindedness, and vision are the only prerequisites necessary to labor in these fields of building a better, freer world for our present and our future.

