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WordsUncaged Submission  
(Auto-Bio Story)

“Prison Circle”

From an early age, I have been exposed to the prison system. My father was sent to a federal prison when I was four years old. He was charged with drug trafficking, racketeering, and extortion. He was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison. I remember visiting him at least once every month. I remember how normal it felt for me to visit him. Growing up, I only felt bad when my father was not there for me when I needed him to be. The older I got, the more damaged I became due to my father's absence in my life and his negative influence on me from behind prison walls. My father raised me with an inmate's personality. He expected me to be aggressive, show no weakness, fight anyone who disrespected me, and to be a “gangsta.” The mentality that he expected me to have went totally against what my grandmother was trying to teach me.

She was very religious and tried to aggressively force her religious beliefs on me. I was being pulled apart by two different mindsets, which eventually caused me to rip in half. The aftermath resulted into an angry, hateful, resentful, insecure, and cold-hearted teenager. My passion became gangbanging, which ultimately led to my destruction and downfall. After my twentieth birthday, I was convicted of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder. I was sentenced to 50 years to life. Now, the tables have turned. My father visits me in jail. I have only had four visits with my father after my incarceration began eleven years ago. I resent my father but I am in a process of forgiveness. My rehabilitation is based on me breaking the prison circle my family is a part of. It ends with me.