

WEB OF HUMANITY

by

Dortell Williams

Picture, if you will, the splendor of a shiny spider's web. As a whole, it is a miraculous work of the finest charm and design. Each singular cord is also gorgeous in its own right. Yet each knit connects together an entire complex, an independent system of individual ties that constructs, supports and maintains the whole. Analogous to this extraordinary mesh and melodic maze is us, peace-loving humanity. Divine.

Then comes yours truly. Jaded and detached by a violent and disconcerting up bringing, like a traitorous child that rips at the web – for no good reason – I have bloodied my hands.

The choice sat neatly, patiently in my innocent bosom: on the left of the web was an inglorious, anger-laced cynicism that I chose to embrace. Self-imprisoned before I was actually caged: selfishness, greed and ignorance drove this impish mutt.

Twenty eight years later, walled from the web of humanity, that garden of paradise still beckons me. Victim sensitivity, conflict resolution and life skills courses have ordered a new path. A path toward pro-social thinking: mentoring youth and making amends. Though physically disjoined from the web, empathy and compassion eternally connect me to its slightest vibration. When other ignorant mutts taste innocent blood, like the rest of the community, I feel the bite.

Remorse and regret anchor me to a sea of concrete and steel as far as the eye can see. I've been told this is a sign of the return of my internal humanity. Still, I am blinded by constant tears and everlasting sorrow for the devastating harm I've caused ... to you, and you, and you – my community and all of the web of humanity.

Dortell Williams is pursuing a BA in communications at Cal State LA. He has dedicated his life toward educating himself, mentoring youth and helping survivors of crime. He appreciates feedback from readers. He may be reached directly at: Dortell Williams, H-45771 / A5-204, P.O. Box 4430, Lancaster, CA 93539, and indirectly at: DortellWilliams@gmx.com