

My name is Antoine Boyce and as a young Man of twenty-two years of age I found myself incarcerated and sentenced to seventy years of my life behind bars. There's nothing that was detrimental that happen to me which I can tell you about my life before prison. I had a loving Mother and a family that supported me in all my endeavors. So I want to start from the moment of my incarceration because that was the birth of the man I have become today and the reason poetry exist in me. This is what I found in myself during the process of being locked away from all the things I love and value.

Being away from my Mother, child and over all physical freedom period, forces you to reflect and face yourself. The decisions you've made and faults that have been difficult for you to see otherwise. In addition, not having the material things of the world that I found myself engulfed in when I was free to distract me is a plus. My eyes became focused on other elements in life that had never been introduced to me. Naturally the first piece of this journey was God.

God became the eye opener to life and the first experience of what I consider to be freedom. The irony of it all is that being detained physically has enabled me to recognize freedom on a level that was never achieved when I walked around free beyond this cage. So I just constantly sought God and eventually that led to the study of history. I wanted to learn where the stories of the Bible took place, who were the people that wrote the scriptures and so forth, Knowledge became a thirst.

In addition, I then wanted to know my history as a black man. So I proceeded to gather and read any and all books dealing with history. Now I want to be clear poetry was not even a thought in my brain at this point.

I continued to read and I believe that as I stored all this information within me my capacity to contain it was no more and it began to spill out in the form of poetry. In my opinion that is the best way I can try to explain the reason I write poetry today. I literally woke up one day and something said write.

Furthermore, that's why you will see God in most of my poetry and an attempt to speak truth because God is the absolute truth. Love is something else I try to project not in the traditional sense but with genuine dialogue. Being honest is love to me. I have only been able to open my mind, heart, spirit and soul due to me being confined in a box consistently for fourteen years. So in an attempt to take my freedom it was actually given to me.

I still have not grasped the whole understanding behind how this was possible but it happened. Initially there was no intentions to my writing it was only a place I would go for serenity. As I evolved I guess my purpose is to project peace.