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Julian Shorts

My View of Equality

I wake up on a Sunday morning, birds chirping outside, the kids in my neighborhood playing football across the street. I get dressed and drive to my church. I walk in and see faces of brown, pale, and pink worshipping together side by side. I join in the worship and sing a song of joy and happiness. Then once worship is over and the pastor has bestowed his wisdom, I drive home and change into my casual wear. I call up my friend and ask him if he wants to hang out and play basketball. He says, “Yes, and bring some spare ankles.” I end the call laughing and start walking down the street. As I walk, I see a black boy and a white boy laughing and talking without a care in the world. I suddenly smile and have a profound feeling of peace and progress. Equality has no sense of social status or of different treatment for people of different skin pigments. It is about treating everyone and anyone the same.

Once I make it to the court, I play ball until the sun looks like it is getting ready for bed. While my friend and I walk down the street, we notice a cop arresting a black man who lives in our neighborhood. Harassment is nothing new, so we casually walk past until the cop stops us and asks us for some kind of identification. Of course we don’t have any I.D. because we were just playing basketball. It is an unnecessary and improper excuse to search us for possession of drugs or weapons. Once he is satisfied, he says, “Now you boys get home and don’t cause any trouble.”

We reply with, “Yes, sir” and walk home.

While walking back, we start talking about how we are going to change the world once we become successful black men. I walk my friend to his house, and before I depart he says, “Don’t let this get in your head, Ju. I know you tend to over-analyze this kind of stuff.”

I reply, “It’s okay, because one day I’ll change this.”

I walk home and enter the kitchen. My mom asks me how my day was. I just shrug my shoulders and say, “Just another day on the block.”

Equality may not be something that can ever truly be achieved, due to mankind’s natural tendency to find something different about his fellow human beings to dislike, stereotype, or use as an excuse to discriminate against them. However, as long as there are men and women willing to put in effort to try and change the world, then equality will be real and prevalent in the world. Equal opportunities, equal rewards, equal punishments, equal pay, equal treatment—equality is something many desire but do not receive. A man works at a job for five years, does the bare minimum, and earns \$130,000 a year. A woman works the same job for ten years, performs way beyond the minimum, and earns \$95,000 a year. It is situations such as these that are becoming more common in modern America. The simple rule of more work being done equaling more pay is no longer being applied, especially for women.

Look in the urban areas of the city and see the undiscovered jewels that lie in wait, the descendants of slaves now free and eager to prove themselves to the world. The old worn down buildings, which are worthless at first glance, are treasure troves of opportunity to the so called “hood rat.” Look to the public library and see the young African-American doing homework and studying, preparing the tools necessary for him to succeed and eventually leave the block he is so used to calling home. Look to the future and see the equality that has been brought forth due to the leaders of this generation taking initiative and wiping away the sins of their foolish ancestors. The hatred and sadness of the past generation has been pushed to the side in order to make room for progress and peace. All of this for equality.