

There was a time where our ancestors did not have a thought that their descendants would endure slavery in a foreign land. They did not have thoughts that their descendants would then be segregated and viewed as inferior in this foreign land. They did not have a thought that their descendants would, at a time in this foreign land where people of all backgrounds are supposedly equal, be subject to discrimination and racial profiling in multiple aspects.

With the killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner last year, people like myself have wondered why, in a time such as this, racial inequality is even still in existence. People like myself wish that we could all become one as a nation, but deep down, we are aware that that may never happen. People like myself believe in freedom, and want to act so that it comes. True peace and full freedom may be seemingly far away from us, but there are ways that we can act to ensure that we will reach freedom and peace someday.

We must first acknowledge the being that some individuals will always believe what they believe, whether it is that they racially profile, or stand for it that blacks will never belong in this country. Regardless of what anyone may think or believe though, we, the ones who yearn for true freedom, must know ourselves, know our roots, and stay true to OUR own belief that we deserve peace.

To know yourself means to know who you are. To know who you are means to stand up for you. Standing up for yourself in given situations is most important. Remember that what people may think of you is not important because other's thoughts won't affect you. Though, if people push it to a point where they are treating you how you know you don't

deserve, reflect back to knowing yourself, and when you know yourself, stand up for yourself. This meaning don't be afraid of the outcome, just tell it like it is and do whatever in your power to let people know that you know who you are, what you come from, and why you stand for you. To reach the true peace that we want, we must remain humble, peacefully stand our ground, and keep our motives set on not letting anybody walk over us.

To know your roots means to know your history, and the best way to know is to learn. Teaching yourself about figures and events in African-American history is a great place to start if you want to know more about exactly what freedom is. You can learn from figures and some of their works. Knowing your roots also means remembering what you come from, and also what your people come from. Educating yourself on it is the best way to start the revolution that you want to start to become closer to full freedom. It is true that you can do anything if you put yourself to it.

Staying true to yourself means just that. Keeping who you are, no matter who loves, hates, or may think of it. Morally, we must use our voices. We must not be afraid to put up a peaceful fight for what we believe in, just as freedom marchers did some 50 years ago. There is so much to learn about why you should learn! This is saying that, with the being of what black people went through for people like you and I to be here is extraordinary, and something we mustn't take for granted, with the position that our race is in even today. Be you, and believe in you. Don't worry about those who are misguided, as long as you know who you are. In 1968, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, Huey P. Newton, said "The revolution has always been in the hands of the young.

The young always inherit the revolution." And this, we who believe in freedom, must go by. Keep in mind that you don't have to be afraid to go any length to achieve what you believe in, even if that means starting a committee, or even starting from the root and learning about why we deserve this justice. Don't be afraid to put up a peaceful fight for true peace, and full freedom, and do it not just for us, but for the ones, in their time, who fought for us.