



IMAGINE ALWAYS BEING WATCHED

FORM: SPEECH

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Table of Contents

IMAGINE ALWAYS BEING WATCHED2





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Imagine always being watched. Imagine being under a permanent microscope while spotlights of judgement are cast upon the colour of your skin.

Imagine.

It scrutinises you as you perform a complicated routine on stilts while you try maintain balance and attempt to avoid falling into the scorching hot lava that lays below, the system: a machine that drags you in as an innocent person, churning, twisting and bending you into a criminal who is yet to be proven guilty of the crime in question, but is guilty of one thing and one thing only - being different.

Does that not scare you? Does that not exasperate you? Does that not antagonise your thoughts knowing that one minor, miniscule mistake and your life isn't yours anymore?

This isn't a game; this isn't a folk legend of a dystopian future; this sickening system is a genuine reality to people; in fact 13% of the population in the United States Of America is black yet black people make up 34% of the prison system population.

Let's put that into perspective; the four primary races being white, Asian, Black, and American Indian make up the 100% of the United States' population; were this system to be fair wouldn't black people make up 13% of the prison system, as that is how the races are distributed in the entire population? However black men are over represented in prison by nearly 300% of the number of black people that make up the entire population, meaning for every 6 people that are incarcerated, 5 of them are black males which leaves one representative space for every other race. Instantly i know what you're thinking: "Not every black person in the prison system is innocent". And yes, I agree that is entirely true, but even a fool could see that discrimination and sly sinister systemic racism has a major role in the incarceration of people my colour in the United States of America.

So much for being united.

You...you in the audience listening ask yourself something, are you racist?... those of you who said no, i have one thing to say. I'm disappointed. And this is not because i am racist that would completely contradict what i'm saying, but because in this war against racism you are either racist or anti racist which means, yes you may be black but that does not allow you to insult another black person for being darker or lighter than you. That's colourism. Which means yes you haven't stood to my face and hurled violent insults towards me like monkey, negro and coon but have you taken into consideration that you can inflict racism on any race and not just black people? Have you wedged into your mind that as you slide that mask up your face while walking past that asian man you are a part of the problem? Have you?

A very controversial point in this day and age is "All Lives Matter" and offended middle class 45-year-olds tend to say, " What about the rest of us; do we not matter too?" And to that I say sorry. I apologise to Alfred who makes £55,000 a year. I apologise that you feel like your life doesn't matter. I apologise to Sarah who drives a BMW 5 Series to work. I'm sorry you feel like your life doesn't matter.

When was there a limit? When was there any point when global racial discrimination was ever not present, whether it was the enslavement and bondage of people my colour for centuries, the kidnapping, torture and murder of millions of Jews in the 1930s, the current Uyghur Muslim-targeted camps located in China or the American concentration camps that contained





thousands of the Japanese in the 1940s? And despite the fact millions were killed overall in all instances and worked to the brink of death, it only took 4 brutal examples to account for the xenophobia-fueled annihilation of millions. Only 4.

What if it was you who was dragged into the machine, your children?, churned, twisted and bent into something that at heart they are not what so ever, so before my work is criticized and dissected and i bathe in “ What went well-isms ” and “Even better ifs”, wouldn't it be even better if we made a change , we stop normalising stereotypes and start treating people based of attitude and not skin colour. Together as a community we can do this, so our children's children feel safe in a world where everyone is accepted, so a young black man can feel safe around a police officer, so a Muslim Woman can feel safe in her neighbourhood whilst wearing her hijab and so all the minorities globally know they are not alone.

Or will this attempt at global justice just be tossed into the ever growing pile of anti racism speeches?

The choice is yours.

