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Composition of Individual and Society (Section: Cp6)

09/27/19

In “Black Men and Public Space” Brent Staple talks about racial tolerance in the society from his own experiences. How he was treated in his community being black. Brent Staple Graduated from University of Chicago in Psychology. He was considered as criminal several times. According to Brent Staple “when I worked as a journalist in Chicago. One day, rushing into the office of a magazine I was writing for with a deadline story in hand, I was mistaken as a burglar. The office manager called security and, with an ad hoc posse, pursued me through the labyrinthine halls, nearly to my editor’s door. I had no way of proving who I was.” (p-3,l- 8). This shows at that time period black people was separated from the community even though he was the employee of the office still police were called. Black people were classified as lower class people and scary. This essay contains about race, class and gender in United States. Black People were seen as threat to society. They were facing discrimination. So, I would say Staple explained his struggle at that time period how he was stereotyped just because he is black.

The purpose of this essay was to inform the people how he was perceived as threat and the struggle he faced. He mainly focused on woman and black community while writing this essay. Because he said after dark, in Brooklyn women who fear the most of him. So, they get extra alert crossing him. Another example of racism is “I entered a jewelry store on the city’s affluent near North Side. The proprietor excused herself and returned enormous red Doberman pinscher straining at the end of a leash. She stood, the dog extended toward me,” (Staple P-1, 25) This shows that women seemed to be terrified by Black men in public space. He did nothing wrong. But I could say he also try informing these women black people were not there to hurt them. He was trying change their mind-set up about discriminations and racism on black people. On the other hand, it was a lesson for all black people who was facing discrimination or still faces that you are not alone. We all same and If he overcome then you can too. When it comes to stance or tone or attitude of author, I would say he was concerned and aware about the fact, but he acted calm and gentle in every situation. Like as he said, “where fear and weapons meet—and they often do in urban America—There is always the possibility of death.” (Staple p-1,24). He took this in a good way because he might get hurt. But deep down we can say how disappointed he was. He was positive about this. He started to change his appearance in the street by whistling melodies. Sometimes new Yorkers join in the tune. Which makes him stronger I believe in public space.

I am agreed with the author’s arguments because I think he acted on the situation that makes him safe about the fact that people get scared passing black men. He started changing his look and appearance to look a like them. He wanted them to think he just normal person like them. He handled the situation in calm way which is great because violence is never a solution to most of thing in this planet. Also, he showed great example to newer people whoever faces this type discrimination and stereotype issue. In this world people easily judge other just by their looks. So, it should be avoided. This essay has an impact to the community or more broadly to this world about this subject because its all about community building. Segregation or discrimination helps to destroy human’s connection to another human and if it continues nobody can prosper.

(Citation)

Staples, Brent, “Black Men and Public Space” Harper’s Magazine Foundation. December 1986