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James Brown's Strength Mirrors Future of Our Youth

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After viewing the movie “Get On Up,” I was very impressed with the acting and writing skills of those who put the film together. James Brown is a perfect example of what the willpower of a human being can accomplish.

Birthed in Augusta, Ga., this little boy was born a grown man. In other words, Brown never had a childhood. He was forced to push himself to the highest heights. I remember a scene where he took a pair of shoes off the feet of a dead man who was hanging from a tree. There were many Blacks who were put to death by neighborhood Klan members in the South. Many children had to endure this horrible experience at early ages. The mental and emotional atrocities these children had to suffer were overwhelming, and these encounters have been embedded in the blood of many of the “children of slaves” living in America today. These fears have been passed down through generations and have an enormous effect on the confidence and attitudes of urban youth. With that kind of stress on young minds, I can only wonder how much depression can affect their daily lives to move them to possibly contemplate suicide.

There needs to be an evaluation taken of the fears of the “children of slaves” and we as a human race need to do the work to create a study by professionals in the mental and emotional fields in every university in this country. This is the least we can do for the damage that has been done. Some children are stronger than others and they can find a way when there is no way. Brown was one of those children.

Brown became a financial entity in this country and around the world through music. Once he achieved his goals, he made new aspirations for musical perfection. He gained knowledge of the music industry by watching white people, like his manager Ben Bart, conduct business.

Remember, in times of slavery, slave masters did not allow slaves to read a book. If slaves were caught doing this, the masters would cut off their fingers or gauge out an eye, so they could not see or turn the pages of a book. When young children saw these things happening, a fear was created that continues to be passed down through the blood of the “children of slaves” living in America today.

Fear is what Brown learned to challenge as a child. So, he became a man even though he was a little boy. Once he became a man, his childhood fears constantly pushed him to the top. He learned to talk to the man inside of himself and mentally became a cheerleader to lift up and promote his inner superman, hero.

This movie told a great story about a remarkable man. Unfortunately, there are millions of “children of slaves” living in America whose fears passed down through their bloodlines are affecting our society today. We as Americans from every cultural and ethnic group should see ourselves as one nation, concerned about how we can help repair the damages done to our fellow Americans, known as the “children of slaves.” Remember one of Brown’s greatest hits was “Living in America.” This song was not in the movie. So, let’s learn how to live in America as one human race, concerned about ourselves as fellow citizens of a great and growing nation of many cultures and ethnicities. This will help us prepare ourselves to walk into the future of tomorrow together, united as one.

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