

A DAY IN MY LIFE

WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING A YOUNG BLACK BOY IN 2021.

IT'S NOT EASY, I BET YOU HEARD THAT MORE THAN ONCE.

I CAN'T PLAY WITH NERF BLASTERS, I CAN'T HAVE NO FUN, CAUSE A BLASTER TO A COP, MUST LOOK LIKE A GUN.

EVERYBODY PUTS THINGS IN BIGGER PROPORTIONS THEN IT ALREADY IS.

YOU LOOK AT THINGS DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF MY SKIN.

I HAVE TO WATCH WHAT I DO, WATCH WHAT I SAY,

WATCH WHERE I AM, WATCH WHERE I STAY.

I'M PUT INTO STEREOTYPES FOR WHO I HANG AROUND.

I CAN'T EVEN WEAR A HOODIE AT NIGHT-TIME
IN MY OWN HOMETOWN.

WHEN MY FRIENDS WITH DIFFERENT SKINS DO
SOMETHING WRONG, IT'S A WIN.

BUT IF I DO SOMETHING WRONG, IT'S
CONSIDERED A SIN.

I THOUGHT RACISM OCCUR TO ONLY BLACK
MEN AND WOMEN,

BUT SEEING MY BLACK FRIENDS, I REALIZE
HOW IT AFFECTS THE BLACK CHILDREN.

RACISM HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS,
BUT IT FEELS LIKE DECADES.

AND IF IT WAS WORST BACK IN THE DAYS,
THANK GOD FOR MY ANCESTORS' BLOOD,
SWEAT, AND TEARS.

AND I HATE THAT EVERY TIME THAT I
ELEVATES, OR I WORK HARD, AND I GET GOOD
GRADES, AND WHEN I GET MY REPORT CARD,

AND IT'S ALL A'S, EVERYONE STILL THINKS I'VE
BEEN CHEATING FOR DAYS.

I HATE THAT EVERYONE THINKS I'M IN A GANG,
OR I'M A THIEF AND A THUG, WOULD I STEAL
OR KILL BEING THIS YOUNG.

ITS ONLY CAUSE I'M BLACK,
AND WE ALL KNOW THAT'S A FACT.

MY SKIN DEPENDS ON IF YOU WOULD KILL ME
AND THAT JUST SAD..... SO YEAH, I'M MAD,
CAN YOU CUT ME SOME SLACK, I DIDN'T
CHOOSE, NO, I WAS BLESSED TO BE BLACK.

I'M LOOKING ON THE TV, AND I'M SCARED OF
WHAT I'M SEEING,

BEING BLACK AINT THAT EASY, BUT I DON'T
WONT' TO GO OUTSIDE, BUT THANK GOD I'M
STILL ALIVE, AND I RATHER BE INSIDE, INSTEAD
OF ON THE NEWS CAPTION STATING ANOTHER
YOUNG BLACK BOY DIED.

AND I'M JUST TIRED OF BEING JUDGED,
WATCHING THE COLORS I WEAR, SO I'M NOT
CONSIDERED A CRIP OR A BLOOD.

I CHOSE TO LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE BUT Y'ALL
THINK IT'S GANG LANGUAGE, OR GANG
BANGING,

I'M SCARED TO LOOK AT THE NEWS, CAUSE
THE WORLD'S CONSTANTLY CHANGING.

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE, NOBODY
UNDERSTANDS, WHAT I'M SAYING.

EVERYTIME I'M OUTSIDE, I'M PRAYING,
BECAUSE WHO KNOWS, BULLETS COULD BE
SPRAYING.

AND SOMETIMES I THINK RACISM WILL BE
AROUND FOR DECADES, BUT I KNOW, IF WE
TAKE IT SLOW

TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY, WE WILL GROW.
AND DIFFERENCES DON'T CHANGE,
BUT WE CAN MAKE AN ARRANGE,
IF WE PUT IN THE TIME,
BLACK OR WHITE, WE CAN ALL SHINE!
AND I KNOW Y'ALL ARE TRYING,
"SO LETS STOP THE BLACKS FROM DYING"

THANK YOU,
Zaiah Shepherd
404-764-9438

