

Clouded Judgment

For the majority of my life
I allowed lust to cloud my judgment
And never gave any thought
To the definition of consent.
I lived to exploit women for sexual gain.
And in the process, I left a myriad
Of broken hearts, broken promises & pain...

I've attended and completed therapy.
So my thoughts
I can learn to rearrange
And accept accountability and responsibility
While turning a new page...

A woman's body is holy, sacred, beautiful,
And profound.
Created in the image of God, women are
Indeed Queens deserving of their crowns.
Women should never be mistreated,
Isolated or violated.
Women should be honored,
Loved and elevated.
Women are Jewels of Strength,
Whose value can never be depreciated...

Without women, we as men have no life.
So men everywhere,
Do everything in your power
To encourage any broken women to fight.
I may not be able to change
The hearts and minds of how people view me.
However, writing my truth
Means I'm still a part of humanity.
And going forward, I can make wise
Decisions to have love and empathy
For any woman who has ever been
Abused sexually.
This is how I choose to express myself
With sound judgment and intellectually,
And I conclude by vowing to live
The rest of my life by this motto:
"No More Victims!"

Johnny B.

North Carolina

Thank You FOR READING!

Below are some questions to reflect on from this piece. Feel free to also use one as a conversation starter with a fellow reader, or even a loved one on the outside!

Have you recognized ways in which you have not treated other groups (perhaps another gender, another race, or followers of another religion) fairly and humanely in the past?

How have you done the difficult work of being honest about the harm you may have caused others because of this mistreatment?

We'd love to hear what you thought of the piece, or if you've had any meaningful conversations as a result. Or perhaps you'd like to share an expression of your own (visual art or creative writing). You are always welcome to write to us at Shining Light at P.O. Box 267, Annville, PA 17003.

**Note: We will not be able to provide a response to your letter or receipt of your submission, but know that we value your feedback and contributions and will take them seriously.*

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