

### **Clouded Judgment**

I'm sure you have no trouble realizing that people occasionally misunderstand each other. Sure we can also think of times when others have misunderstood our thoughts, emotions, or intentions. Or had our earnestness mistaken for belligerence, shyness mistaken for arrogance, generosity mistaken for cynical manipulation. We've all been there. In our cooler moments, we even probably realize that we, too, sometimes misunderstand and misinterpret people who we should understand best. I said all this for my concussion.

Whether accurate or not, our first impressions are formed quickly and easily and are therefore held with considerable confidence. Seeing someone for only fifty milliseconds, faster than the blink of an eye, usually gives us enough time to form an impression on their competence and/or personality as a person.

However, I sincerely think that these snap judgments are basically prejudice towards ourselves. Why? Because in all fairness, would we really appreciate it if people make these same kinds of snap judgments against us? Without first getting to truly know us for who we truly are as loving, humble, sympathetic, caring, and fragile individuals, who only seek love and a peaceful life...

Juan R  
Pennsylvania

# 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!

**Can you recall a time (or times) when your first impression of someone you met was completely wrong?**

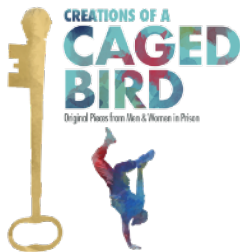
**Why do you think we should wait before deciding we completely know, or understand, someone?**

**What do we risk when we make "snap judgments"?**

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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