10 black, 6 white, of various ages and states of health. What streams of confluence resulted in our 16 souls entering this waiting room?

Mental illness knows no race, color or creed—all are affected without regard to sex, orientation or any classification of financial status. Mental illness is classified as a disease—a dis-ease of the mind, body and/or spirit. We are currently in prison though more than 50% of society is prescribed mood and mind altering medication to try and alleviate disorders such as depression, mania, anxiety and others. Our systems (society, department of correction) suffer under increased pressure to treat these maladies in the effort to curb crime.

I have a life + 10 year sentence. If the Department of Corrections has their way—I will perish within these walls. I have little or no contact with the outside or ‘free world’. As a member of the mental health caseload this disconnection from society is harmful to my condition and subsequent attempts at treatment. After more than 10 years of continuous incarceration, I am slowly losing the will to re-enter a society that has abandon me. Contemplating this is a symptom of institutionalization—I am cognizant of this fact while unable to do anything to alleviate the downward spiral I’m currently experiencing.
The other inmates mingle in idle conversation. The bonds of bondage make bedfellows of us all, I sit writing in silence, contemplating—unable to fit in even here and not desiring to, not now, not ever.

Though society hath deemed us (inmates) unfit... I have met several brilliant, honorable, mature, knowledgeable, highly spiritual individuals. The additional strike (mental illness) notwithstanding—many of the individuals incarcerated within the United States prison complex deserve another chance to re-enter society and display their positive attributes as productive members of said society. To the detriment of all involved, too many souls are ‘lost’ forever in a system of punishment and cruelty that was designed to be instructive and corrective.

Those responsible for upholding the laws, rules, and regulations have so often flagrantly abused and broken the same laws, rules and regulations utilized to incarcerate more of the population per capita than any other nation in the world! Employees, officers, and Agents of the government go unpunished for the very same infractions that were used to convict many of my present constituents. A couple of examples: The Georgia Department of Corrections
Currently violates Federal laws by housing 3 men in a cell against Federal Regulations and rights guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States. The GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS also violates Federal laws concerning paying wages to inmate workers. THE STATE OF GEORGIA and THE GEORGIA D.O.C. pay federal times which are tacit admissions to their culpability in committing these crimes while continuing to house prisoners. Am I crazy to believe this is an injustice? These crimes have been ongoing for decades! Conspiracy, Violation of OATHS of OFFICE, Violations of fiduciary duties, Medical malpractice, and a slew of other violations have been uncovered by Federal investigators at this prison alone! Most of the perpetrators received ‘slap on the wrist’ sentences for which individuals from the public received 20 years to life sentences. This disparity alone should signal that change is required in a system of criminality which purports itself as an institute of justice. Turning a blind eye to these injustices doesn’t alleviate or dissipated the problems. Continue witnessing people being gunned down in the streets without consequence to the perpetrators (which include law enforcement officers) will eventually lead to anarchy. The Riots of our youth are bound to re-occur as revolution. Chalk this down to rants and ideological expressions of a mental patient if you dare... the evidence...
of my "prophecies" will play out in our future whether I'm a part of society or not. My fate, our fate, remains to be seen. My counselor is here - gotta go!

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