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 The Suffocating Freedom

We are all imprisoned from birth, I thought. As much as we would like to think we are free in free nations, the more we think about freedom the more we realize the extent of our imprisonment.

We are our own minds controlling this thing that we call our “body”. Having bodily freedom is only a subset of the bigger picture- We are only free when our mind is free. And the mind can only be free through gaining knowledge which often times can be gained by being physically free. But it does not matter where, or in what condition your body is. You could be on a life sentence in a prison cell but as long as your mind lives out by having its ample supply of knowledge of the unknown, you’ll be free. Malcolm X said it himself that his life in the prison was the most important time of his life as he learned many things by reading books there. When you read books you get to live many lives. You get to walk in many people’s shoes and experience what they experienced. Reading books transcends both space and time as you can find yourself walking beside the castle and mourning for your dead father in the 14th century Elsinore, Denmark. Or standing in the crowd watching a passionate Martin Luther king as he delivered his famous “I have a dream speech”.

The beauty of learning is that there are infinite things to know about. You could live your life several times over and still not learn a fraction of the vast amount of things that resides within the universe, or multiverse! It’s a suffocating feeling. The world at times does seem like a prison when I think about it this way.an ever growing living prison that expands as we progress. Maybe my idea of freedom is not perfect after all. Maybe I still need to look for the things that actually set me free.

That’s when it struck me. Freedom is supposed to be freeing. I can only speak for myself and from my perspective. You see the concept of freedom is so abstract that there is no one definition. Your definition of freedom may be completely different than mine but it’s equally valid. It’s what sets YOU free; That is what freedom is about.