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The book “Nobody,” written by Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, is an eye-opening piece that focuses on the flawed social system that isolates and diminishes minorities. It shows how the “privileged,” or white majority, takes advantage of these vulnerable individuals — often through the exploitation of a racial system that refuses to die. Hill explains what it truly means to be a nobody. To be a Nobody you are overlooked by your government and subjected to state violence, brutality, severe neglect, abandonment, and powerlessness. These nobodies are unable to voice their concerns or opinions due to the predetermined racial profiles derived from an uneducated system that refuses to change. A solution to this horrific injustice should be an utter and total reform and reconstruction of law enforcement, and a widespread in-depth education of the commonality that we all share. We all exist on this planet for a reason, to carry out the word of God, and spread his message of acceptance and commonality with everyone.

The Franciscan values of discovery, community, and individual worth will assist the explanation and interpretation of Hill’s work. From his book, I discovered the history related to each incident and furthered my knowledge as to how they transpired. Sadly, through this discovery I have uncovered the true extent of disorder that our justice system is in. Our courts refuse to uphold the most fundamental of amendments, more importantly the 6th, which requires the court to provide an attorney to anyone who is unable to do. Yet the courts believe it’s acceptable to provide a basic attorney who is entirely oblivious to the background of the case they are assigned to work on instead of spending the extra time and effort to provide to ensure the judicial system is properly upheld.
The communal sense of the Franciscan values is ever fortified by the content of Hill’s book. Through all the senseless violence, a common message should be diffused: We are all the same, we are all created by the same hands, so why are we fighting about a topic as minor as skin color. The pigmentation of your cells should not dictate your punishment or your likelihood of incarceration. Every person, regardless of their racial or religious standings, should granted equal representation, whether it be in a court of law or on the street. Every living person deserves the opportunity to further themselves, to live a healthy life, to pursue their happiness, and to be treated with equal respect on all fronts. We as a species should celebrate diversity because its acceptance creates infinite doors for opportunity.

Individual worth is a powerful value that can determine the impact you make in your life. Your worth determines your success, the happiness in your life. Every decision you make is based upon your worth. We all have an incredible amount of worthiness because we were all molded by the same hands, and that commonality makes us all worthy. That common wealth makes us exceptional, to be worthy of respect, dignity, and equality. The opinion that other human beings are inferior due to their pigmentation or background is ridiculous. The gross injustices that have occurred over the past few years are incredible in the most tragic way possible. All the while, millions of able bodied individuals just look on and continue to look the other way. Not this time.

“Nobody” exposes the gross actions exercised by state police, judicial systems, and local governments. These horrific forms of mistreatment mainly target the disadvantaged African American, Latino, trans, and other minorities. Simply because they are not the majority apparently justifies the gross actions of misconduct and lack of compassion. I will not stand for this exploitation any longer. I will become involved in the process to implement a driving force of change that will finally eradicate the racist society we live in today.

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