

Larry “Luqman” White



“Larry followed prison rules. He ran the prison newspaper. He became a mentor for younger inmates, sharing his approach to serving his sentence. In time, he helped found the Think Tank, a support group for people serving long-term sentences, under the guidance of prison chaplain the Rev. Ed Muller. [The Think Tank developed The Cadre which evolved into Exodus] The Think Tank instrumental in launching the Alternatives to Violence Project, which got its start in the 1970s when the prison group invited Quakers to Green Haven to discuss ways to teach younger inmates about resolving conflicts without violence. Luqman spearheaded other important projects including Hope Lives for Lifers and the

manual *Beyond the Yard: Constructing a Prison Life*.”

(see: <https://afsc.org/news/honoring-larry-white>).

In the first, and the earlier, paper below Larry refers to himself as Papa Rage, but he became, almost universally, known as Luqman (look mahn).

Charlie Acker Came Back

by Larry White (Papa Rage)

When I got word that Charlie Acker had died, I was kind of doubtful about it. It just didn't seem certain that Charlie Acker would lie down and that was it. Like it was all over and done with.

Charlie Acker, as he came to be referred to at the Haven, is renown, even among prisoners who never met him, as the one who rose from the dead. The living dead, that is.

Charlie Acker was a heavy, a lifer serving twenty-five or so to life. And as often happens to heavies, he became overwhelmed by the enormity of his situation and bugged-out, as they say. He became one of the living dead. A state of being most feared by all those serving heavy time. It was the no-no of all no-nos, for few rarely

ever returned from the land of the living dead. And those few who did, never returned whole and all together. They may have managed to get better, but they never got well!

But Charle Acker did come back and is remembered even today, years after as one of the prison yard legends. Charle Acker, the one who rose from the dead!

For some the myth of Charle Acker, the Rev. and the Exodus Cadre, are part of prison yard fantasy. But for me it is as real as that thirty-foot wall.

Rest in peace Charle!!

(for more about founder Charlie Acker see Rev. Muller's Study Paper "Hope is Foundational")

The Novice Long-termer¹

by Larry White

Primary among the rigors of prevailing prison conditions is the prospect of aging in prison. For the person serving a long-term sentence, aging in prison is a crucial survival consideration. Although release from imprisonment is the paramount goal, a long-termer's primary concern is the struggle to survive the various stages of a long-term sentence. That struggle begins upon admission into the prison system as a "novice long-termer."

"A 'novice long-termer' is a person who is beginning a long-term prison sentence that entails the service of 15 years or more before becoming eligible for release. As a novice, a long-termer must adjust to the prison setting as well as come to grips with the prospect of

¹From: The Prospect of Aging in Prison: A Long-termer's Perspective

surviving an extended period of confinement. At the novice stage of confinement long-termers begin the process of re-socialization to the prison setting and to consider the need to construct a prison life. Confinement in a prison setting for an extended period of time entails a form of secondary socialization in which the long-termer has to learn to adapt to prison as a way of life. Old definitions are shattered and he/she has to learn to adjust to the deprivations of prison. He/She might do this by conforming or, on the other hand, by continual rebellion.”²

The range of such adjustment entails the pains of imprisonment - a mortification of the self that a long-termer has to endure as his privacy is invaded, he is programmed as a number, and his old self is assaulted. These are the various forms of what a long-termer experiences as "disrespect.”

² Goffman, Irving. *Asylums*. Penguin Press, 1968.