

I Started to Transform When  
I Am Now  
by  
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I started to transform when I no longer wanted to live life guided by a moniker, a name that carries such a potential for violence, hate, shame, disrespect and rejection.

A name that I earned, embraced and embodied.

A name I carried with pride, causing fear for some while letting others know exactly where I was from.

A name I feared would cause my own demise or, even worse, someone else's.

A name that played on my insecurities, took me by the hand, guided me straight to prison.

A name I began to hate because it kept me in an altered mind state, alone, confused, overwhelmed, and victimized.

A name that I turned the humiliation, hate, pain anger, all that it reflected onto itself and killed it, murdered it.

A name that I buried with the sorrows, betrayals, hostilities, manipulations, and everything else it represented except  
(me)

I am now reborn as Donnell, no longer neglecting the birth name given to me by my mother.

I am now that young shy responsible kid who is growing into the assertive and confident man I strive to be.

I am now a man who can be trusted to be a productive member of society, no longer pressured to fit in.

I am now a God-fearing man with integrity, respect, honor, and wisdom.

I am now one who continues to use positive thoughts, positive words, and positive actions in my daily living.

I am a father, grandfather, son, brother, mentor, role model, and more.

I am now the man I was born to be.

I am now me.

Donnell Campbell