

Poem By Vincent Crama (Kubwa Bobo)

HUGO PINELL (plenty of reasons)

Hugo Pinell,
Did 51 years in a prison cell,
And regardless of what people say he didn't fail.

He was 71 years old,
And still didn't fold,
So, they killed him knowing his life couldn't be sold.

When you project being strong,
You are considered wrong,
And the consequences can be that your life end up
Being gone.

It took for the system to kill him,
And it didn't happen on a whim,
It was deliberately done by them.

In 1984,
Hugo Pinell helped me to grow,
While we all faced death row.

Hugo taught me about unity and strength,
And what it truly meant,
But, that some of us had to die for it to be relevant.

I knew Hugo personally,
And he showed why learning knowledge was an urgency,
In order to survive the punishment to fight to be free.

San Quentin was a battlefield,
And you either backed down or picked up some steel,
As you faced the real deal.

I did time in the Adjustment Center,
Where George and Hugo fought to be winners,
And I became one of the contenders.

That is where I met Pinell,
And he told me to fight against this living hell,
And to never subject myself to the mentality of being enjailed.

I went through some rough times,
But, kept my heart and mind,
As I continued to search and find.

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Hugo Pinell (plenty of reasons)

I'm no George Jackson or Hugo,
But, based on what I've done and know,
In the past I quickly learned who was my foe.

When my mind grew,
I became a threat too,
And the prison administration labeled me a part of
A crew. (Revolutionary)

I, too, have been set up in prison,
But fortunately I'm still living,
And that is a rare given.

If you read literature and books,
Based on them type of brothers and what it took,
You may have to face the game with only your rooks.

You would be labeled and punished if you resembled
Pinell or George Jackson,
With severe action,
And history shows the many times it has happened.

I remember when I named a brother "Baby George Jackson"
You should've seen the institutions reaction,
They said; "That's not happenin!"

They threatened him with validation,
While I contemplated retaliation,
But at the end he said na-than.

We can no longer order or get George Jackson books or literature,
Because in the system eyes he was a sinister,
But to his people, he was a minister.

It was once constituted and prohibited to learn,
And the consequences was either to be beaten or burned,
For taking the wrong turn.

Why do you think they did that?
Because when you're smart you know the facts,
And therefore a target can be put on your back.

Knowledge is a threat,
only because you can stand up and contest,
And have the potential for you and others to be your best.

Why do you think the system has killed all of our leaders off,
And at what cost?
It was because of their knowledge and the fact
They couldn't be bought.

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Hugo Pinell (plenty of reasons)

The fact that knowledge can uplift and change others,
Is why they must keep you smothered,
And away from your brothers.

If your knowledge can benefit them,
And you're working for Jim,
Then that's the only way you can go out on a limb.

Now you know why Hugo Pinell was a target
To be hit,
With the impression that he wasn't shit.

The media has always put him down,
Mostly for spreading knowledge around,
And for being brown.

To take away the head,
Means to be dead,
But millions of people still remember what he preached,
And what he said.

He preached about freedom,
Regardless of the background you came from,
Because he believed you can have some.

Why is it wrong for us to learn the truth?
Because it illustrates proof,
And can build you up to.

The truth also means that you're no longer living a lie,
And in some cases you may have to die,
Because your a new person inside and wanting to ride.

Brother Pinell, Rest-In-Power!
Because your strength is now a part of ours,
And what you stood for will never sour.

KUBWA BOBO