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The image of the person in the mirror is what I have become and not who I see when I close my eyes. Closing my eyes allows me to escape reality, but I live in the real world. A world that calls me a handicap and thinks of me as less than I am. A world that forces me to access and egress through specially marked entrances. Handicap Entrance? A world that still has five and six-story walk-ups, bathrooms that are not wheelchair friendly, doors too narrow, and counters that are too high. If you think that is bad, consider sitting in a seat two-sizes too small, kneeling buses that don't kneel, elevators and escalator out of service, what is a person with mobility difficulty do?

Do you see what I see; the most lambasted, stereotyped, criminalized, and marginalized eyes looking back at you? The eyes of a black man that does not steal, use drugs, never been to jail, does not beat his wife, and in college. That's right 53 years old and still in college getting the education that you white people say we don't have. Cradle of civilization, lost history, slavery, lynching, miseducation, segregation, and now the police kill us. I'm looking at you look at me and label me undesirable. Where have I heard that term before – Hitler, Germany, and the Nazi Party?

I wish I could say that the image above was only a reflexion, but it is what a black man with a disability of the body (mobility impairment), excessive body fat (obesity), and being black in a dominant white society lives every day. Even the literary genres that entertains us, keep us informed and influence public opinion doesn't showcase any race that is not white in a good light. Worst off all images of people with disabilities treated as some menagerie. In John Steinbeck's, "Of Mice and Men" the character called Crooks is segregated, dehumanized, and ostracized. Crooks is segregated because he is a black man living in a white-dominated world. Along with racial segregation, Crooks was treated like an animal forced to live in the harness room where Crooks rubs liniment on his own back like an animal licking his

wounds. The harness room also symbolized the control of Crooks reminding the readers of straps, chains, and bridle instruments used to control slaves. Evidence of Crooks' dehumanizing existence can be found in the isolation and yearning for human contact. It can also be said that Crooks' disability serviced to set him apart from the other ranch hands. His appearance was altered by a spinal injury suffered by a kick from a horse. John Steinbeck's, "Of Mice and Men," sheds a disparaging light on blacks, women, and disability. The book treats women as though women are loose, troublesome; objects to be disrespected. Evidence of the aforementioned propositions can be found on the following pages of John Steinbeck's, "Of Mice and Men" (p.66, 67,