



June 22, 2020

As a young man in 1968 my father embarked on a journey from Nazareth to the US to seek an education and life with only the moral support of his parents and community. He was alone in finding a path over the challenging financial, social network and cultural hurdles associated with building a life in a new country, south of the Mason-Dixon Line. Despite those challenges he made the US his home, marrying, raising three successful sons and achieving success in his career. Reflecting on the lessons I learned from stories about and by watching my father I would list them as:

- Be bold and willing to take risks that do not sacrifice your principles or values
- Push yourself to improve and grow
- Accept that struggle is part of growing
- Pragmatism not emotion should guide your decisions
- Compassion and the Golden Rule should guide your approach to relationships and contributions to society
- When building relationships understand and respect the struggles/journey of the person in front of you

I am not alone in this. I am certain that those reading this were taught most if not all of these same lessons by their father/father figure. In applying these lessons to the current state of our American Society, my father's lessons tell me that Black Lives Matter. It is bold risk taking to shake off the limitations of old mindsets that diminish our growth and the fulfillment of our true potential. Struggle is necessary for growth, yet the pragmatic decision here is to live by the Golden Rule – I should endeavor to enfranchise and aid others in their pursuit of equality and equity with the same vigor I pursue those goals for myself. I appreciate the struggles and journey of those seeking equality and the opportunity for equity and I recognize that this mission is one of enlightenment not revenge for ancestral transgressions. What lessons did you learn? I'll bet they are similar or the same. Black Lives Matter. This helps us all. Happy Father's Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Khaled A. Taha", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Khaled A. Taha  
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