

probably not the best word, and questioned how it could be better stated. This was a research question to be addressed.

The Reverend Jones has spent years helping people with their problems. It had become apparent to the researcher that he is a wise and insightful man. His path in life, that of quietly mentoring and supporting people to help them in both religious and secular matters, has been akin more to the teachings of Martin Luther King than the confrontational approach of Jesse Jackson. The researcher was confident that the Reverend Jones would either answer a question about the racial issue frankly and with insight or not answer it at all.

Thus, the researcher explained the context of the question to Reverend Jones and asked if he could give a concise statement that would explain the issue of inequities, and sometimes abuses, as they were experienced in the communities in pre-arsenal times, and the known rules of behavior, from the perspective of the Black community. He said:

It was a matter of learning how to survive. You don't like what it is, but you know it's real—like this thing here is red hot, and you know if you put your hand on it, it will burn your hand. The sensible thing to do is **don't touch it.**

One might have a strong desire to break the rules, but if he did break them, he alone probably would not pay the price—his entire family would.