



Fixing Hell: An Army Psychologist Confronts Abu Ghraib

By Larry C. James

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This is the story of Abu Ghraib that you haven't heard, told by the soldier sent by the Army to restore order and ensure that the abuses that took place there never happen again.

In April 2004, the world was shocked by the brutal pictures of beatings, dog attacks, sex acts, and the torture of prisoners held at Abu Ghraib in Iraq. As the story broke, and the world began to learn about the extent of the horrors that occurred there, the U.S. Army dispatched Colonel Larry James to Abu Ghraib with an overwhelming assignment: to dissect this catastrophe, fix it, and prevent it from being repeated.

A veteran of deployments to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and a nationally well-known and respected Army psychologist, Colonel James's expertise made him the one individual capable of taking on this enormous task. Through Colonel James's own experience on the ground, readers will see the tightrope military personnel must walk while fighting in the still new battlefield of the war on terror, the challenge of serving as both a doctor/healer and combatant soldier, and what can-and must-be done to ensure that interrogations are safe, moral, and effective.

At the same time, Colonel James also debunks many of the false stories and media myths surrounding the actions of American soldiers at both Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, and he reveals shining examples of our men and women in uniform striving to serve with honor and integrity in the face of extreme hardship and danger.

An intense and insightful personal narrative, Fixing Hell shows us an essential perspective on Abu Ghraib that we've never seen before.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Narrator Eric Kramer captures this contradiction in a sure voice that also projects James's (author) gentleness, creative thinking, and compassion. James bring listeners into the painful realities of Abu Ghraib with powerful dialogues, and Kramer's delivery makes the most of these conversations." (*AudioFile* 2008-01-00)

About the Author

A colonel in the U.S. Army, Dr. Larry C. James was awarded a Bronze Star for distinguished service in Iraq. He is the Chair of the Psychology Department at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, and is the former Chair of the Department of Psychology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is also a Fellow of the American Psychology Association and has published four books as well as more than fifty scientific papers. Colonel James has played a major leadership role in determining the appropriate, legal, and ethical role psychologists must play in national security and intelligence collection. Now retired from the Army, he is currently Dean of the School of Professional Psychology at Wright State University in Ohio.

Gregory A. Freeman is an award-winning writer in journalism and historical nonfiction. His most recent books are *The Forgotten 500* and *Sailors to the End*.

From [AudioFile](#)

Army psychologist Larry James describes his paradoxical role as both soldier and healer in Iraq. Narrator Eric Kramer captures this contradiction in a sure voice that also projects James's gentleness, creative thinking, and compassion. James bring listeners into the painful realities of Abu Ghraib with powerful dialogues, and Kramer's delivery makes the most of these conversations. We feel the despair and frustration of men blamed for a situation brought about by poor leadership and understand the power of James's ability to transform their feelings as he shows them how to think out of the box. Finally, Kramer makes even more credible James's horror upon realizing that he himself has not escaped post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), brought about by living amid psychological trauma and by personal attacks on his humanity. S.W. © AudioFile 2008, Portland, Maine

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