

The Gilded Cage

If you take a bird,
And put it in a gilded cage,
Will it think it's free?

Is this a loaded question?
Maybe I'm being too broad, allow me to elaborate.

If you take a bird -
A bird that had previously been enslaved for hundreds of years, right -

*If you take away the shackles from it's cute little bird feet,
Teach the bird how to read and write,
Grant the bird civil rights,
Give the bird the right to vote,
Encourage the bird to get a good education,
Apologize to the bird for allowing it to be caged for so long
Promise the bird new economic prosperity,
Job opportunities, higher income,
Allow the bird to enter spaces that were built for animals without wings,
Give the bird awards and recognition,
Trick the bird into thinking that they now have a better bird-life,
Treat the bird with the same decency that you would treat a fellow human with,*

How long would it take for the free bird to find the glass ceiling of the big cage?
How long would it take for the free bird to figure out that it's not really free?

Freedom is an allusion, but you wouldn't say this to the bird.
You wouldn't want to ruffle a free bird's feathers.
You would want to let the free bird soar high,
So high that they crash into the glass ceiling and break their cute little bird neck and die.

You would want the bird to meet God,
and you would want God to tell the bird that it lived a good, free life.