

# KNOWLEDGE OF SELF



## A COLLECTION OF WISDOM ON THE SCIENCE OF EVERYTHING IN LIFE

EDITED BY DR. SUPREME UNDERSTANDING ALLAH  
C'BS ALIFE ALLAH AND SUNEZ ALLAH  
FOREWORD BY LORD JAMAR OF BRAND NUBIAN

## Dedications

### C'BS

To the one who is greater than me, my son I-Victory, and the Original youth in the Hells of North America learning how to construct Heaven.

### SUNEZ

To the memory of First Born Prince Allah and Dr. Ivan Van Sertima.

### SUPREME

To the people who don't know why a book like this is needed.

**Knowledge of Self: A Collection of Wisdom on the Science of Everything in Life.** Copyright © 2009 by Supreme Design, LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means including information storage and retrieval systems without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer, who may quote brief passages in a review. Published in a joint venture by Supreme Design Publishing, PO Box 10887, Atlanta, GA 30310 and Thuro Media, Inc., 555 Fifth Avenue 14th Floor, New York, NY 10017.

Although the editors, authors and publishers have made every effort to ensure the accuracy and completeness of information contained in this book, we assume no responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, omissions, or any inconsistency herein. Any perceived slights of people, places, or organizations are not intended to be malicious in nature.

Fourth printing 2012.

Cover design and layout by Supreme Design Media.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2009929677

ISBN 13: 978-0-9816170-2-2

ATTENTION CORPORATIONS, SCHOOLS, BOOK CLUBS, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: Quantity discounts are available on bulk purchases of this book for educational, gift purposes, or as premiums for generating participation in non-profit and for-profit programs. Special books or book excerpts can also be created to fit specific needs.

For information on these discounts, please visit our website.

**[www.SupremeDesignOnline.com](http://www.SupremeDesignOnline.com)**

# FOREWORD

## KNOWLEDGE IS THE FOUNDATION

### Lord Jamar – Brand Nubian

My full name is Lord Jamar Allah. You might know me from my roles on TV shows like *Oz* or *Law and Order*, or from my voiceover work with ESPN. Most likely though, you know me for my music. Together with Sadat X and Grand Puba, I came to the consciousness of the American public as Lord Jamar of Brand Nubian. During the 1990s – the “Golden Age of Hip Hop” – Brand Nubian captivated the streets with classics like “All for One” and “Slow Down.” Meanwhile, we were making the American mainstream increasingly aware of the Nation of Gods and Earths. Throughout our reign in the music industry, we brought a lot of people into the desire for the knowledge of themselves. Though we received a lot of flack for what we said, it was worth it.



It's been 10 years since we recorded “Don't Let it Go to Your Head” and a lot has changed since then, both in the music industry and society as a whole. However, one thing is sure to outlast all change: The need for our people to have Knowledge of Self. That foundation is essential no matter what else is happening. It's the reason why I've prospered where others failed, and it could be the most important difference in your life as well. It's why I put out *The 5% Album* in 2006. And it's why this book is so essential.

I've had knowledge of self for about wisdom power (25) years, since about build understanding ('83), when I was knowledge power (15) years old. Before I got knowledge, I was basically a savage living in the pursuit of happiness, just running wild in New Rochelle, New York. A brother by the name of Barkim, who had just come home from being incarcerated up north, had returned to the community and was working as a guard at a mall in our city. A lot of us would hang out at the mall, looking for girls, trying to steal, or whatever else we wanted to do. And Barkim would pull certain ones of us to the side and start dropping little jewels on us, like, “Did you know the Black man is God?” or “You know why you shouldn't eat swine?”

All that stuff resonated with me somehow. I felt the vibrations of truth. But in my city at that time, there weren't many other Gods to build with. And Barkim was staying in tune with me, but he was beginning to deal with the Nation of Islam. So he had the magnetic of God knowledge, but he was coming with more of an NOI approach. There was an NOI mosque in Medina (Brooklyn) and he took me out there a few times. I definitely liked what I was hearing, but as a youth, I was still running wild and I wasn't trying to put that suit on. I was still smoking weed, doing what I wanted to do, crime and everything else. The knowledge was attractive to me, but I wasn't trying to be with the Nation of Islam, passing the collection plate around. I ain't had no money to be putting in a collection plate every time they passed it, and they were passing it around a lot, you know? So that kept me away, until a brother named True King Allah moved into my community from Queens.

I was a DJ at that time, and he used to DJ and MC, so we got together on a musical basis. And him being the true and living God that he is, he began striving to civilize me. He started building with me, and I was coming back at him with things I'd learned from Barkim. He was like, "Wow, you already know about Yacub and all that? God, you already got knowledge of self. You might as well just take the next step. Stop eating that swine, take that earring out your ear, and get with the Gods, you know what I mean?" And it's been strong ever since!

*"One word can change a nation." - 5% proverb*

You see, it was the vibration of truth. Words have power. People don't realize that they hold energy. Truth holds energy, and lies hold energy. If you are in tune with yourself, you are able to feel those vibrations and be in tune with those vibrations of truth or falsehood. Growing up, my old Earth was a Jehovah's Witness. She had us in that cipher pretty much since we were young children, and I'd always felt a vibration of falsehood there. There were so many things that didn't make sense, which they were telling me to accept on face value. So once I came into the knowledge of myself and that vibration of truth hit me, it opened doors for me. I saw the light, the blindfold was lifted off me and I saw the true reality of what life is about, and our purpose here on this planet.

For me, Supreme Mathematics is a blueprint for how to live your life. It shows you that everything comes in a certain order and if you don't follow that order, things can go wrong fast. For example, if you put the two (wisdom: words or actions) before the one (knowledge: thought), you're going to get a bad three (understanding: result or realization). You're going to get a misunderstanding instead of a proper understanding.

Mathematics has kept me strong. It's kept me focused and on the right path. When I was young, knowing the Supreme Mathematics and Supreme Alphabets, knowing that I was God and the master of my destiny - that kept me from allowing outside influences to master me. I came up in the

era of the crack epidemic, and a lot of my friends fell victim to crack, whether selling it or smoking it. It was mathematics that kept me focused, instead of becoming another crackhead, or trying to become the next *Scarface*. Because when I was selling drugs, I was trying to figure out how to be the biggest crack dealer in my community. And in order to do that, I would've had to take the lives of the same brothers I went to school with. Now, had I not had knowledge of self, I probably would've went full-fledged into that plan. However I said to myself, "I can't do that to my own. These are my people. I can't do that to my people." I had to draw the line somewhere. Then I started seeing a lot of my friends getting indictments. I was surprised I didn't get one, and I knew that this music thing was something that I was destined to do. Even back then, my lyrics were righteous, so I knew that I had a job to do, and I couldn't ruin it by getting locked up.

When we came out as Brand Nubian, we were coming behind people like Public Enemy, KRS-1, and Rakim, so having something pro-Black to say was kinda popular at the time. That's not why we did it, but we were fortunate to come in at a time where it was accepted. Now once things changed, that's when people had to decide, are you going to flip it now, or are you going to stick to what you've been doing? My thing is, if it ain't broke, don't fix it – you know what I mean? I see the power and the influence that we've had on people through our music, and the positive responses we've got, and that by itself is worth way more than any gold or platinum to me. I've had people telling me that our music is what got them through college. Some of the testimonials I've received from people are just ridiculous. Knowing that the music is deeper than just making somebody dance – I guess that helps to keep you on the path too – but just being true to yourself is bigger. For me, that's the basic thing, just being true to yourself. And I don't know if there's just a defining moment that made me say, "Oh, I'm going to stick to this way of life." I think that's just kind of in my character. I'm a loyal dude, so if you're loyal to me, then I'm loyal to you. And this mathematics, this culture, this way of life has always been loyal to me. It's not really a debate in my mind. You can't do or not do something because you're worried about what other people are going to say. It all goes back to mathematics, and it all starts with knowledge. Knowledge is you. It starts with you and everything else comes after that. You can't start with wisdom, you can't start with culture. You don't start building a house from the fourth floor and work your way down. You start from the foundation and work your way up. A lot of people look for things outside of themselves, instead of inside themselves, looking for what help or relief they can get from outside. That can take many forms, and none of them are helpful to you. We don't teach that. Knowledge of Self begins with you *knowing that everything starts with you*.

# CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	3
INTRODUCTION .....	8
IDENTITY CRISIS .....	10
LOVE, HELL, OR RIGHT .....	10
THE GREATNESS IN MAN .....	18
LOST IN THE WILDERNESS .....	21
BLACK GOD .....	23
BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL .....	26
BLACKS IN CHINA? .....	27
SOMOS ORIGINALES .....	30
FROM HERU TO “HOW YOU DOIN?” .....	36
EM-POWER-U .....	39
VANILLA IS BLACK .....	41
“MISS INDEPENDENT” .....	43
RIGHTEOUSNESS AND RESPONSIBILITIES .....	48
MURDERING FOUR DEVILS .....	52
THOUGHT MANIFESTED .....	54
THE MIND IS THE MASTER KEY .....	54
THE PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING .....	56
IDEAS AND REALITY .....	57
IS BEAUTY ONLY SKIN DEEP? .....	58
DID I DO THAT? .....	61
WHAT DO YOU FEAR? .....	65
WISDOM IS THE WAY .....	66
ARE YOU A RELUCTANT MESSIAH? .....	67
GOD HAS NO RELIGION .....	69
BELIEVE IN JESUS AND LOSE YOUR MIND .....	71
PRAY AND IT WON’T COME .....	76
THE BEAUTY OF KNOWLEDGE .....	77
KNOWLEDGE VERSUS BELIEF .....	79
THE POWER OF THE MIND .....	82
DROPPING SCIENCE .....	84
THE BIRTHRIGHT .....	86
WHY IS THE BLACK MAN GOD? .....	86
THE CULTURE OF I-GOD .....	94
THE SURE REALITY .....	95
WHAT GOD IS AND WHAT GOD IS NOT .....	96
THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD .....	98
C.R.I.P. .....	99
FROM INMATE TO GOD .....	102
EARTH BY NATURE .....	104
AN EARTH’S JOURNEY .....	108
MARRIED AT THE AGE OF SIXTEEN .....	112
SO... THEN WHO IS THE DEVIL? .....	114
THE BUILD .....	120

CULTURE .....	132
WHAT WE TEACH.....	132
WHAT WE WILL ACHIEVE.....	132
WHO IS THE 5%?.....	133
ALLAH THE FATHER .....	142
FREE THE DUMB .....	146
FROM K.O.S. TO 120° .....	149
A GOOD NAME IS... ..	150
WHAT'S IN A NAME: SELF DEFINITION .....	152
NO PORK ON THE FORK.....	155
THE UNIVERSAL FLAG .....	157
IS THE NGE A MUSLIM COMMUNITY? .....	158
HOLY VS. RIGHTEOUS .....	163
CIVILIZATION STUDIES.....	158
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE GOD?.....	164
CHANGE THE WORLD .....	166
THOSE WERE THE DAYS .....	167
SERVING JUSTICE .....	168
ALLAH AND INDIGENOUS ANARCHY .....	174
THIS IS NOT JUST A PHILOSOPHY .....	178
ALLAH AIN'T RAISE NO PUNKS.....	182
TEACHING .....	184
THE FATE OF THE MANY... ..	184
WHY I AM A POOR RIGHTEOUS TEACHER.....	185
EDUCATING OUR YOUTH.....	188
SAVE THE BABIES.....	191
THE SWORD MY SON .....	193
27 LESSONS.....	194
PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY .....	196
RESPONSIBILITY .....	197
TO BE OR BORN THE EARTH.....	200
FOR THE REVOLUTIONARIES.....	204
PEDAGOGY OF THE FIVE PERCENT .....	206
THE P.E.A.C.E. COURSE.....	207
THE UNIVERSE .....	212
WHY I DON'T BELIEVE IN A MYSTERY GOD .....	212
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE? .....	215
LIFE AFTER LIFE?.....	222
THE POWER OF THE QUEEN IN CHESS.....	225
THE GOD IN MAN .....	227
QUANTUM PHYSICS AND THE BLACK GOD .....	229
THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU .....	232
BIAN XING .....	233
'TIS THE SEASON .....	242
WHAT DO YOU LOVE? .....	244
OPTICS.....	245
THE INTERNET: A BLESSING AND A CURSE .....	248
CHOOSING A POOR RIGHTEOUS TEACHER .....	250
AFTERWORD .....	252
FAQ.....	254
GLOSSARY.....	257

# INTRODUCTION

It has been written on the walls of temples since man's earliest history: *Know Thyself!* Knowledge of Self isn't some New Age, Hippie, feel-good philosophy. Nor is it an ancient, religious doctrine of some kind. No one is asking you to burn incense, grow dreadlocks, make animal (or human) sacrifices, wear sandals, do yoga or drink cyanide-laced Kool-Aid for a charismatic leader. No, fortunately, that isn't what Knowledge of Self is about. You don't have to beg, pray, meditate, fast, or give your money or things away in order to obtain knowledge of self. All that is required is that you be sincere, courageous and that you pay attention.

To know one's self is a gift that all of humanity deserves to be presented with. To be imparted with the awareness to constantly explore one's ideas in the most empowering manner. To delve into one's nature truthfully and share in a way that betters all. To have the greatest weaponry available to identify and protect oneself from any enemy's oppressive measures. These are achieved supremely with the knowledge of self.

The Nation of Gods and Earths teaches we are the creators of our entire universe and subsequent reality. Yet it did not begin with us. Since the earliest recorded times, many of our ancestral cultures and civilizations have shared the idea of man as God, the woman as the Earth, and the mathematical nature of the universe. Throughout history, this teaching has emerged, been repressed, and reemerged again. In this way, the element of the "Five Percent" in society is a timeless reality. However, the Nation of Gods and Earths truly adds on a unique perspective in many enlightening ways.

First, these great teachers did not search or wait for the "right" student to present themselves and their revolutionary ideas. Rather, they presented themselves to the world as God or Earth - without fear or hesitation - and allowed potential students from any and all walks of life to inquire. This is a departure from the nomadic Sufis imparting insight in the worlds of fundamentalist Islam, and then slipping away to see another day, or the Taoist masters who lived as mountain men, away from society's ill. The Gods and Earths have openly shared their understanding regardless of the consequences. The consequences have been great, from the risk of self-contradiction and hypocrisy, to being ostracized from one's family and community, from direct oppression and harassment by the existing power structure, to outright assassination. Still, the Gods and Earths continued to teach.

Second, the foundation of the teachings - the Supreme Mathematics - made such a complex subject as the universe and its workings, impressively



simple to understand. This innovation and insight into the science of everything in life produced a methodology ready for application by anyone of any age group. This process also elevates the insightful teachings of the Nation of Islam, extracted and refined as our 120 lessons, into a mathematical system of study and development. In fact, though the truth we study is certainly ageless, the development of the Five Percent into the Nation of Gods and Earths as it exists today exemplifies the exact development most needed today. That is, a culture that makes sense of our identity, the reality of God, nature, and mathematics, and need for sweeping social change, yet goes about this work without the trappings of belief and religious thinking. Thus, the “science” of everything in life.

Third, we learn that we are the truth we seek in each and every problem or inquiry. A knowledge of self becomes the most empowering tool known because it is an actualizing of what is otherwise only factual information. The Original man is God/The Original woman is the Earth. This is true. Yet, through the living process of knowledge of self, I am this truth, and I prove it true. What is within us that enables us to survive and thrive? Knowing oneself, the answer presents itself. It is the intention of the editors of this book that, in reading, you will come to find answers of your own. More importantly, you will come upon more questions. And in the actions you take thereafter, you will discover the science of everything in life.

There are thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands of Gods and Earths who live and teach the principles named above. In the pages that follow, you will get a chance to explore some of their perspectives. This text is the first of its kind because it not a history book, biography, ethnography or how-to guide, but an anthology, or collection, of writings from individuals representing nearly every walk of life encompassed in our Nation. Young and old, male and female, free and incarcerated, high school dropout and postdoctoral researcher. This may be considered a “Black book,” but in this culture, “Black” is inclusive of the Puerto Rican, Dominican, Iranian, Bengali, Native American, and Chinese authors you’ll meet within these pages. This is a Nation of great diversity, in thought and experience. Thus, you will find many differing perspectives and methods of presentation. Some will resonate with you more than others. As the editors, it has been our goal to provide you with the most comprehensive picture of who we are and what we teach as a Nation. It is up to you, the reader, to “take the best part” for yourself. Even in doing so, however, read every word. Understanding will come in time, and will come sooner if you should *follow up* after your reading as recommended by the authors. In the intense experience that is to follow these pages, you may just begin to discover the “science of everything in life.”

Peace,  
The Editors

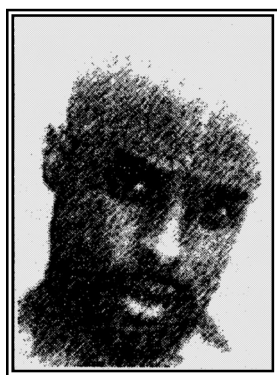
# IDENTITY CRISIS

## LOVE, HELL, OR RIGHT

Intelligent Tarref Allah - Interior Cipher (New York)

### LOVE

I grew up with my parents and older brother in the crime-infested Brooklyn neighborhoods of East New York and Brownsville. My parents were from the South, but they were not the stereotypical Southern “church folk.” I remember attending church twice, once with my grandmother, and once with my friends as I pursued a girl whose “Sunday best” fit too tight for “The Lord’s House.” In my home, the word “God” was usually trailed by the obscenity “damn.” There were no Michelangelo depictions of a pale Christ, or wooden crosses adorning my walls like I saw in the homes of my friends. The only symbol that hung in my home that was remotely related to religion was the infamous picture of Malcolm X clutching a rifle, and a smiling portrait of the late Nation of Islam spokesman and human rights activist. A love for Malcolm X and Elijah Muhammad spawned my father’s use of the name “Allah” in lieu of “God.” My parents had a belief and concept of God, but they never force-fed it to their children.



My parents had been “home schooling” me before it became fashionable or I set foot in a classroom. There was no formal curriculum, just daily instruction on reading, writing, math, history, and current events—mostly verbal tutoring in the tradition of ancient African griots.

### HELL

I excelled in daycare and elementary school, so those classroom settings were heaven from the beginning to the end. But junior high was hell at first sight. I.S. 292 was a fashion show, boxing ring, and dating service rolled into one. The sidewalk in front of the school was a runway for students-turned-fashion-models on the first day of the school year. After the day-one outfits were hung up, true style was defined by the few students whose

parents could afford wardrobes of Calvin Klein and Guess, or those pupils who had a collection of Polo and Gap, courtesy of crime. Fights erupted in the gym, lunchroom, halls, and classes, but the traditional after-school bouts drew the most attention and blood. Couples spent time hugging, rubbing, and kissing in the lunchroom, but a rare breed with raging hormones and huge hearts transformed a deserted doorway near the auditorium into a bedroom. Me being in the smartest classes each year in elementary school was cool to most of the students and all of my teachers there. Yet in junior high, to many, intellect was like a contagious disease with no cure. I was a leper among the pure—purely problematic.

Junior high exposed me to just enough personalities to help birth my identity crisis. While deciding whether to follow in the footsteps of my badboy brother, I battled the allure of fashion and females pulling me towards the in-crowd. In a rhyme I wrote called “The Autobiography,” I rapped:

*I was smart in school/  
But I ain't want to be a nerd/  
Badboys got girls/  
Chicks flew past birds/*

A bird is slang for a lame or loser, and trying to balance books and bravado was causing me to develop feathers and a beak. I had been the brunt of students' jokes, producing a distress within me that was more destructive than a nuclear weapon. No matter what game you play, everybody likes a winner. The students in my school were no different.

It only took months before I solved my identity crisis by flaunting the mask of thug, fashion icon, and ladies' man. I was the youngest and newest member among a crew of troublemakers who were players in The Game that's not a game. The drug game, stickup game, gun game, and other criminal activities of the street culture are collectively known as “The Game.” Drug dealers “ball” (show off), stickup kids steal money like bases, gunslingers gamble with lives, and pimps are “players.” But The Game is not a sport designed for fun. Gunshot wounds, dead comrades, life sentences, and kidnapped family members are realities of The Game that's not a game. I had stepped into this pot of warm water which was so slowly reaching a boiling point that I could not sense the heat.

By 1991, a month after I turned 15, I found myself in Spofford Juvenile Detention Center charged with murder. The jealousy and hate of a rival crew member caused my false incarceration. I was the collateral damage in a street war that was brewing. It would take 14 months to win my freedom after trial.

Some months after my incarceration, my father sent me a copy of Elijah Muhammad's *A Message to the Blackman in America*. One thing that stood out in the book was the Nation of Islam's concept of Master Fard Muhammad being God in the flesh. I had read this earlier in Malcolm X's

autobiography, but within the isolated confines of my small white room at Spofford, the notion seemed different. I was fascinated enough to question my atheist views, but not compelled to believe in the existence of a God in any form. Traditional or non-traditional, in the flesh or spirit, any concept of God seemed totally irrational and supported solely by belief. I needed evidence before I could dedicate my life to any concept or person.

One night after perusing a chapter in *A Message to the Blackman in America*, I thought of Malcolm X's autobiography. Paraphrasing him, he mentioned being told to take one step towards Allah and Allah would take two steps towards him. Although Elijah Muhammad said Master Fard Muhammad was God in the flesh, he also spoke of Allah with connotations of a supernatural being external from man. I was confused. I was a skeptic, but if I could rationalize the existence of the supernatural, I would have to accept that as truth. Also, because my father idolized Malcolm X, and I accepted both of them as knowledgeable and logical thinkers, I yearned to know: how could they believe in God?

I paced my cell, wondering if I had it all wrong about God. I needed to find out. I dropped to my knees, closed my eyes, and prayed for the first time in my life. I took one step, as Malcolm X said, asking for forgiveness and a sign of the existence of Allah, thirsting to see if Allah would take two steps towards me. I begged something to the effect of, "Please forgive me. Just give me one sign. Please." After about fifteen minutes of repeating and rewording my request, I lay on my bed and stared at the ceiling.

Minutes later, I gazed out of the window into the dark night. Maybe there was a God, but his name was Jesus. I knew that more people believed in Jesus than Allah. I shut my eyes, kneeled, and repeated similar requests as I did earlier. When I did not receive a single signal, I opened my eyes and began wondering why I had allowed people to influence me to second-guess my logic. I put Elijah Muhammad's book beneath my bed. It remained there until I went home.

After I returned home, things were constantly changing. My crew had diminished to a group of about nine. We were spending less time getting into trouble, but the war between us and the rival crew was alive. We, however, were focused on making money illegally, partying at clubs, and trying to get record deals as rappers. I was involved in a relationship with a female named Cathy, so spending time with her in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, where she lived, kept me off the streets of East New York, where trouble haunted me. I was also enrolled in a GED program and receiving training in building maintenance under the tutelage of an independent contractor in Harlem.

Forty-one days before my 18th birthday, I crossed paths with the rival crew, including my tormenter who had me arrested. He noticed me before I saw him. I believe that we were the only two armed. He made the first move, but after seconds that seemed like eternity, I was the last man

standing. My choice to become a player in The Game that's not a game had changed my life forever.

There is only one thing that feels worse than being locked up for murder: that's being falsely incarcerated for murder, then rearrested for killing the person who accused you of murder.

I had only been home from Spofford for 17 months and three days, when I was shackled, cuffed, and thrown in a precinct cell. My next trip led me to a cell in Brooklyn Supreme Court. With each step I took, and each second I observed my surroundings, my anger heightened. The sight of 30 grown men crammed into a 10-man cell made my blood boil. The sound of court officers barking orders, detainees telling war stories, and the jingle of keys, handcuffs, and shackles assaulted my ears. The stench of the mildewed clothes on the homeless man feet away made me nauseous. Back then, I kept blaming the deceased for starting the beef that led to my incarceration. Now, I recognize that he had only handed me the rope. I had hung myself the day I decided to trade in school for the streets.

I ended up in C-74, the Adolescent Reception Detention Center, on the world's largest penal colony—Riker's Island. Someone coined the phrase "C-74, adolescents at war." It fit perfectly for the single building that caged some of the most dangerous 16-to-19-year-olds in New York City. I knew some of the outlaws from my stay at Spofford, others had stomped through the streets with me. My ties to old associates and the new thugs I was introduced to made my ride relatively safe. Unfortunately, most new faces in C-74 crashed head-first into injuries and extortion. I had my share of drama, but I navigated the maze of madness without a homemade icepick puncturing my body or a razor gracing my face.

My body was locked up, but my mind was in society. My family were supportive and certain that I would be vindicated in court, because I had defended myself. Their thoughts were destroyed when we found out that the gun the deceased had possessed never made it to the precinct evidence locker. Possibly, one of the deceased's friends had taken it, or it was removed by the deceased's uncle, who worked in the precinct. The deck was stacked against me. I would end up pleading guilty to murder and receive 19 years to life.

My brother and a few guys from my crew had been visiting me regularly on Riker's Island. Several months after I was arrested, they had become members of The Nation of Gods and Earths, a God-centered cultural group commonly known as The Five Percent Nation. My brother told me not to call him Moe anymore, because his new name was Uneeke Understanding Allah. The rest of my crew had adopted names like Wise and Victorious that reflected positive attributes of themselves.

"I'm trying to keep a low profile," my brother told me inside of the crowded visiting room. He leaned back in the small red chair and said, "I'm on another level now. I'm God."

I held back my laughter and wondered if he had lost his mind. To me, anything involving God was insane. I switched the subject to avoid debate.

After the visit my mind remained on my brother, so when I got back to my dorm I mentioned him to Sharief. Sha, as we called the older brother for short, was also a member of The Nation. He began explaining how The Nation was started by a man who was an understudy of Malcolm X in the Nation of Islam. His name was Clarence 13X, but he changed it to Allah and was known as The Father after leaving the Nation of Islam. He parted from the group based on Master Fard Muhammad being considered the sole personification of God, though Elijah Muhammad also taught, to a lesser degree, that all Black men were God. I immediately remembered the time in Spofford when I was confused by the Nation of Islam's conflicting views on God.

"Ain't no God," I told Sha, as I leaned back on my bed, staring at Sha's narrow light-skinned face. "Not the Black man or Master Fard Muhammad. And it definitely ain't nobody in the sky that's controlling everything."

Sha smiled, as he sat on the small locker connected to my bed. "You don't believe in a supernatural God, right?"

"You know that," I responded to the rhetorical question.

"So who or what is greater than man?"

I replied, "Nothing."

Sha smiled again, nodding his bald head. "So if there is nothing greater than man, what does that make man?"

"What?" I shrugged my shoulders.

"Listen," Sha said, "God means the supreme being. Supreme means the most high. Being means to exist. So if you don't believe in something that exists that is on a higher level than man, then subconsciously, you already understand that man is God. The Black man. They say that God is the originator. Well, anthropology and history proves that the Black man was the first on the planet. They say that God created man. Well, science proves that all races derive from the Black man. They say God gave us land to live on and fruit for food. Well, the Black man was the first to have thriving civilizations where we cultivated the land and lived off it." Sha kept going for at least ten minutes, quoting book after book to support his claims. He even made reference to the Bible mentioning "Ye are gods."

I was silent, pondering what Sha said and how he could quote so much history and science. I had known other members of The Nation, but I had never heard anyone expound on their concept of God in such simple and logical terms.

"So if the Black man is God," I said, "What's up with the white man?"

Sha asked, "Do you know what duality is?"

"No," I responded.

Sha started talking about the Yin and Yang, explaining that positive and negative were principles that exist everywhere and in everybody. He said

that God represented positivity and the devil represented negativity, and the Black man was God and the white man was devil. “On earth,” he stated, “overall, the white man has been associated with negativity and destruction from antiquity until now. And the Black man has had a positive history overall.”

My mind flashed back to Elijah Muhammad’s book, where he spoke of the white man being the devil, and a speech of Malcolm X I had seen where he said the same. They both cited the historical atrocities white people had inflicted on people all over the world who were not white. But I was in an argumentative mood, so I said, “You did negativity, that’s why you’re here. Me too, and I’m Black. Plus a Black man tried to kill me.”

Sha grinned again. “That’s duality,” he said. “There is positive and negative in everybody. It doesn’t matter what your race is. Being God doesn’t mean that the Black man can’t do anything negative. Just like the white man being devil doesn’t mean that he can’t do anything positive.” He began explaining that The Nation was not pro-Black nor anti-white, but pro-righteousness and anti-devilishment, meaning they championed the cause of any person doing righteous acts and they were against any person involved in negativity. Race was not an issue. Then he mentioned how Allah and The Nation had worked with the late Mayor Lindsey, who was white, to help fund different institutions and activities for The Nation. He also mentioned how New York magazine had run a cover story about how Allah and The Nation helped stop Black Harlemites from destroying their community out of their anger over the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sha said, “Being God is about balancing the negative and positive elements within you so you can become in tune with your higher self.” He eased off of the locker onto my bed. “That’s what we taught each other in Egypt, before we were stripped of our culture and the knowledge of ourselves and brought to America.” Sha went on and on about The Nation. Years later I would learn about ancient religious men from the Middle East like the Hurifi founder Fazl Allah, and al-Hakim of the Druze, who asserted they were God. There were others from various religions who saw themselves as God, giving rise to the concept of incarnation.

## **RIGHT**

As the months passed, my conversations about The Nation with Sha, my brother, and my crew began to sway me towards their views. I learned that Sha was born into The Nation and his full name was Intellectual Sharief Allah. His mother was an Earth, which is what female members of The Nation are referred to as. Symbolically, they traditionally dress in headwraps and long dresses that cover three-fourths of their bodies, like the earth is covered by three-fourths of water. About six months after my arrest, I joined The Nation under the tutelage of Sha. After a three-day fast,

I was given the name Intelligent Tarref Allah. Intelligent is a reflection of one of the strongest of my attributes.

I had ceased eating pork as a prerequisite for joining The Nation. Sha had schooled me on pork parasites, including the tapeworm, fluke, and trichina, some of which grow to 21 feet long inside the human body. I also learned that pork was forced upon Black people during slavery before becoming a staple of contemporary soul food cuisine. In antiquity in Kemet, renamed Egypt, swineherds were considered impure and not allowed to enter temples of their native land, nor marry people who were not swineherds. I was greedier than a pig, but learning these and other factors helped me stop eating the pig.

Eliminating pork from my diet enhanced my health and spiritual awareness. I became stronger mentally, and motivated to make positive changes in my life. Sha had stressed to me the need to constantly grow and learn new things.

Coming to my personal understanding of spirituality was something new. It took me years, because I considered spirituality tantamount to religion. But through learning in The Nation to simplify things and study etymology, I discovered that the word spirit derives from the Latin word spiritus, which meant “breath.” I associate breath with life, thus making spirituality an innate energy that generates life. So spirituality is about becoming in sync with an internal energy that complements your mental and physical being.

Allah had devised a numerical system called Supreme Mathematics. I would later learn that the ancient people of Kemet and the Kabbalistic Jews had a numerical system called Gematria, and certain Muslims used a mathematical system called Abjad. Supreme Mathematics are principles that correspond to the numerical system of one through nine and zero. The first principle is knowledge, and it is first because a person should have knowledge before speaking or acting. That was a principle I began to live out immediately, because speaking and acting without knowledge of situations had caused me problems in the past.

Allah also devised a system called the Supreme Alphabet, which involves unique principles that correspond to the English alphabet. They work in conjunction with Supreme Mathematics. The twelfth degree is Love, Hell, Right, which shows that life is filled with cycles of us experiencing Love and Hell in order to emerge Right. I identified that with the Love I received from my family, the Hell I experienced on the streets, and me emerging Right after joining The Nation and changing my life. The more I used these principles and other teachings of The Nation, the more I began to grow.

After 16 months on Riker’s Island, I was transferred to Downstate Correctional Facility. Spending most of my day alone in an empty cell provided me with a solitude that was foreign. I was a sociable person who



was regularly busy with family, girlfriends, and comrades. My newfound solitude caused me to face myself and consciously begin my lifelong process of introspection. I thought of how Sha would always praise me for being smart, and how he was the first person I met who reveled in his own intellect. I wondered if my life would have been the same had I crossed paths with Sha before I became a player in The Game that's not a game.

As I was transferred from prison to prison, I met members of The Nation who were pivotal in my growth and development. Powerful Ruler Nation Allah taught me to write effectively through penning complaints that challenged the conditions of my imprisonment. Subsequently, I ventured into writing articles, editorials, essays, and fiction. Powerful Ruler Nation Allah also provided me with instruction on civil law and helped me file the lawsuit against DOCS on behalf of The Nation. After a federal trial in which I was victorious, members of The Nation are now provided certain constitutional protections while incarcerated in New York State. Divine Allah exposed me to litigating my criminal case, when I thought I had no recourse since I pled guilty. King Allah encouraged me to become health-conscious, by constant conversations and providing me with books on diet and nutrition. *African Holistic Health* was the book which led me to stop eating poultry and beef.

The more I learned externally from members of The Nation and the books they encouraged me to read, the more I began to develop internal discipline. I rid fish from my diet and stopped smoking weed. I had learned that nearly everything I consumed had an ill effect on me. Since I could not change everything I took in, I eradicated the worst things. I even stopped eating dairy products and eggs. To increase my willpower, I stopped eating sweets like pies, cookies, cakes, and junk food. I had begun exercising regularly. By stepping out of the pit of my lower desires, I elevated myself to higher levels of consciousness. Because I saw myself as God, I could not allow anything to have control over me.

I also began to reflect heavily on negative things I had done, because I had developed a respect for others. Although I was defending myself, I began empathizing with the deceased's family. I made a vow to be life-giving in my future endeavors and to control my destiny.

My sense of empathy also led me to be more understanding with other people's concepts of God, unlike my days as an atheist. I learned that everyone needs something from which to garner motivation and focus in life. For me it is The Nation. Your connection to the God of your choice is a personal one. I also recognized some life-giving principles found in many religions, and I apply some in my life. Just a year ago, my empathy also caused me to forgive the people who deserted me, because the prison walls had become a hurdle. I understand their positions and my responsibility for being in my predicament and all it entails.

I am constantly looking for new ways to elevate above my bodily desires and become more in tune with my higher self. Because knowledge is infinite, my journey will be life long. And I look forward to the possibilities that lie in the future.

Intelligent Allah is a graduate of the Writer's Digest School's Novel Writing Workshop. His writings have been published in books like *Classroom Calypso* and *The Immortal Birth*, as well as numerous websites. He has been contracted for copywriting by companies like Cinobe Publishing. He is the co-editor of books such as Wahida Clark's #1 National Best Selling novel *Thug Matrimony*. He is certified by the Department of Labor as a counseling aide, and has lectured to incarcerated people and civilians throughout his stay in numerous prisons in Upstate New York. He has also served in the leadership of prison organizations such as the NAACP Prison Branch, African Cultural Awareness Organization, and the Lifers' and Long-Termers' Organization.

## THE GREATNESS IN MAN

### Supreme Understanding Allah - Allah's Garden (Atlanta, GA)

*"He who experiences the unity of life sees his own Self in all beings, and all beings in his own Self, and looks on everything with an impartial eye." - The Buddha*

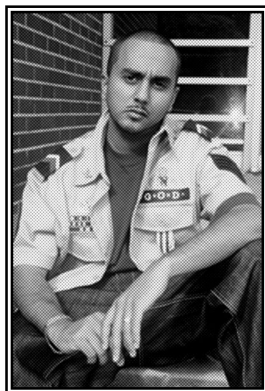
Do you realize there is a conscious intelligence that is running every system in your body right now? As you read this, this innate intelligence is ensuring the smooth operation of your body's 11 systems:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Circulatory system  | 7. Immune system       |
| 2. Digestive system    | 8. Lymphatic system    |
| 3. Nervous system      | 9. Muscular system     |
| 4. Skeletal system     | 10. Respiratory System |
| 5. Reproductive system | 11. Urinary System     |
| 6. Endocrine system    |                        |

On Ghostface Killah's *Ironman* album, Popa Wu explains:

See, some people don't have no direction God, because they don't know the science of they self. See, the science of life is the science of you – all the elements that it took to create you. Cause everything in the universe God - that created the universe God - exists within you. You see what I'm saying? And that's the mind that you can't see. Don't you know that if a man could take and flip himself inside out God, he'd fall out and die, if he sees the sh\*t that goes on, inside?

This "mind that you can't see," this innate intelligence keeps your heart beating and your lungs breathing without you even having to think about it. How else could all those processes go on inside of you without a glitch? But there's nothing spooky about it. This intelligence is definitely within you. It's even within your control. You simply don't know about it. You see, there are actually five "stages" (or frequencies) to the mind: (1) Conscious,



(2) Subconscious, (3) Superconscious, (4) Magnetic Conscious, and (5) Infinite Conscious.

Most people are only aware of the base stage - their conscious thoughts. They are reminded of their subconscious thoughts when they dream at night or have fantasies, but even then they don't realize that their mind is functioning on more than one level. A computer works the same way. There are processes that happen on the desktop screen (like the program I used to type this book), and processes that happen in the background (like the computer managing its memory so it doesn't slow down while I type).

If you were to start investigating your subconscious thoughts, you could learn a lot about yourself. You could learn "what makes you tick" as they say. You could understand what you're REALLY thinking about or why you REALLY did something you did.

It's not that hard to do: It begins with looking past the basics, and asking questions like "Why?" about everything. If you ask yourself what everything means, even the little things you do, you'll begin to see clearly in no time. Unfortunately, most of us function solely on the conscious level: satisfying our most basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, sleep, and sex). We don't know why people (including us) do what they do, nor do we try to learn and find out. I'm hoping you're not like that, because I'm about to take you deep into the rabbit hole.

Remember that conscious intelligence that runs every system in your body without pause? Remember how I said that intelligence is within you?

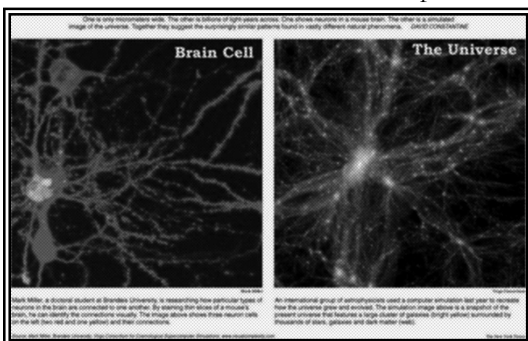
*"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth,  
who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!" - Psalms 8:1*

Think about the following:

The spiral found in the human fingerprint is the same spiral found everywhere throughout nature, from a common shell to the shape of our galaxy. The human brain cell is structured almost exactly like the structure of our universe.

The Earth's surface is 75% water, the human body is 75% water, and the human brain is 75% water. And just as the most powerful natural forces on the Earth (and in the universe) involve electricity and magnetism, your body has its own magnetic field, and your brain operates using electricity.

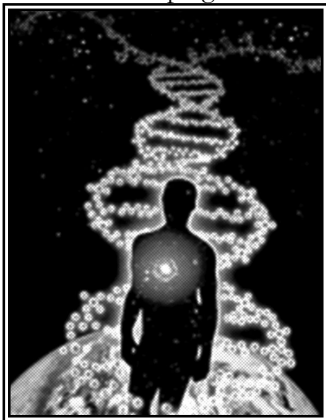
It takes the same amount of time for blood to circulate from your heart throughout your body as it does for light to travel from the Sun to the Earth (8 minutes, 20 seconds). Melanin, the chemical substance that gives



you your skin color is present in the brain as neuromelanin, and throughout the blackness of space. Carbon, a black element, is fundamental to all life...and your melanin.

Religious people often look at the birth process as proof of a miracle-working unseen God. God IS in the details, but is - as the Qur'an describes - "nearer to you than your jugular vein." In a woman's body, the egg can be found in only one fallopian tube at a time. A man's sperm, upon reaching the woman's uterus, consciously decides which way to turn, and picks the correct path 90% of the time. This sperm has almost nothing in it, except DNA. That's your mind still at work. Why do you think you get tired when she's the one pregnant? A human fetus then progresses through several stages, which resemble the different points in human evolution, once again reminding us of the brilliance of our design.

*"As above, so it is below" - Ancient Egyptian maxim*



The Ancient Egyptians understood all this, which is why they reached the highest level of development any civilization had seen at the time. While the Europeans were still living in caves, these Black men and women were building pyramids that folks still can't build today! In fact, the three pyramids of Giza are arranged in the exact same orientation as the stars in Orion's belt,

and the Great pyramid lies in the exact center of the earth's landmass. The height of the Great pyramid is almost exactly one-billionth of the distance from the earth to the sun. The perimeter of the Great pyramid divided by two times its height equals Pi up to the fourteenth digit. In Europe, Pi was not calculated accurately to the fourth digit until the sixth century A.D. And these ancient Egyptians studied a system of symbolic mathematics as well, so our science is nothing new. These mathematical laws were seen as governing the structure and development of the universe.

*"God wrote the universe in the language of mathematics." - Galileo*

And who is the author of these mathematical laws? The same ones who'd eventually rediscover them. Us. In the ancient Egyptian "mystery schools," the students were taught that man was God on Earth, and trained in methods to unlock this great potential. In fact, every god, in every ancient religion's scripture, has been described as a great man, and often specifically as a Black man. As it reads in a 1981 issue of the 5% periodical titled *The Black Family*:

God is the highest extent of the mind. And energy and matter is the medium through which he expresses his ideas. And the black physical body of the Original man (the first) is the SUPREME medium. In other words, the amassment of elements...which comprise the physical body of the Original

man, is the only vehicle in the universe through which (in all its essence) the great mind in the universe, in any and all ramifications and manifestations, manifested in the character or nature of the Original man.

What is my point in telling you all of this? I want you to look deeper within. Because if you can fathom that there is more to your mind and body than what happens on a conscious level, you can fathom that the same intelligence running your body is also running the planets. That same intelligence, again, is within you.

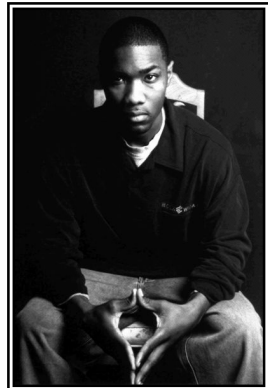
Get it yet? Think of the mind that designed the universe as an infinite, timeless consciousness. Think of that consciousness as a sea of water. If you take a cup of that water, the water in the cup has all of the properties of that vast sea. Nothing is missing. It's not about quantity. It's about quality. You have all the qualities of that supreme intelligence in your mind. Whether you tap into it is up to you. As I said, most of us function at the lowest level of consciousness for most of our lives. Some of us step up to a higher level. It begins with making the conscious decision to look deeper and see things from a higher plane. Can you get there? (For more like this, check out *The Science of Self*, coming Fall 2011)

**Supreme Understanding** is a former juvenile delinquent, selfish bastard, and chain-smoking drunk. Supreme received knowledge of self at age 15, after being kicked out of high school. Studying 120 degrees revived Supreme's interest in education. Since then, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in World History, a Master's in Urban Education, several certifications, and - at age 26 - a Doctorate in Education, focusing his research on the benefits of non-formal education (like what occurs among the 5%) with at-risk youth and other disadvantaged populations. Since then, Supreme has given his life for the betterment of original people at home and abroad. Supreme's work has brought him to Ghana, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, India, Japan, Thailand, the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, England, the Caribbean, and all over the United States. Supreme has presented on a variety of topics with organizations as diverse as the ACLU, the Hip Hop Thinks Leadership Summit, the International Conference on the Social Sciences, the Japanese Ministry of Education, the White Privilege Conference, and the U.S. Social Forum.

## LOST IN THE WILDERNESS

### Wyking Allah - Morocco (Seattle, WA)

Imagine yourself having been dropped in the middle of a jungle. You are now surrounded by wild animals and poisonous plants...and you're totally ignorant to this environment. What do you think your chances for survival are if you don't know an earthworm from a killer cobra, nor edible fruit from poisonous berries? What do you think your fate will be? Naturally, you are easy prey, as you don't have any means of protecting or preserving your life. Thus, your lack of knowledge is the biggest obstacle to your survival.



This is actually the reality of the world you live in. It's like a jungle and your job is to navigate and survive long enough to find whatever treasure may be found. However, there are hostile conditions, all kinds of predators and prey, plants that nourish and replenish and poisonous plants that take life. Your job is to distinguish one from another and to know who and what you are dealing with at all times.

First you must recognize and control the animal instincts in yourself. You are not an unthinking beast. Second you must know that every person you see with two eyes, two ears, a mouth, is not necessarily a functioning human being. Some ARE unthinking beasts. Your job is to observe the dominant characteristics of those you encounter and deal accordingly. Knowledge, wisdom and understanding are your best defenses. It's survival of the fittest, so you'll need to exercise your mind.

Picture a baby rabbit who hasn't yet been taught by the adult rabbits. What happens when a baby rabbit does not have knowledge of itself to know that it is a rabbit...and it begins to hang out with the wolf? Eventually, when the wolf gets hungry enough, that rabbit becomes breakfast, lunch or dinner. Not because the wolf doesn't "like" the rabbit, but because the nature of the wolf is to eat things like rabbits to survive. The first law of existence is self-preservation.

In order to preserve its own existence or survive, the rabbit must:

- ◆ Know its kind
- ◆ Identify threats to its existence
- ◆ Identify its historical enemy
- ◆ Avoid things that are destructive to its existence
- ◆ Avoid its natural enemy

These stories are meant to illustrate the importance of knowledge of self and "knowing the ledge" (awareness of what to do and what NOT to do). How do we learn how to navigate the jungle? How does the story of the rabbit apply to us?

An entrepreneur and educator, Wyking Allah is the founder and Chief Executive of Remix Marketing & Communications, LLC, a multi-service firm specializing in youth and cultural program development, urban marketing and event planning. In addition to his entrepreneurial ventures, Wyking has over 20 years experience in civic involvement, community service and youth development that spans from Seattle to New York. A strong advocate of community involvement and civic service, at age 21, he was runner-up for state representative in his home state of Washington. He has also served in membership, advisory and consultant capacities with a number of organizations and businesses. He is also a Green For All National Fellow. He is a founding director of the African American Heritage Museum and Cultural Center in Seattle, WA, presiding over its Youth Action Committee. For ten years, he has been President/CEO of the UmojaFest African Heritage Festival and Parade, the Pacific Northwest's longest running African-American community festival. In 2002, he founded the Seattle affiliate of Russell Simmons' New York-based Hip-Hop Summit Action Network, which works to educate and empower youth academically, culturally and economically through Hip-Hop. He is

# FAQ

## **1. What is your Official Name?**

We don't have an "official" name yet we do have names which resonate with and are most commonly utilized by our community. These two names are the Nation of Gods and Earths and the Five Percenters.

## **2. Is this a religion?**

No, we are not a religion. A religion is a way of life that utilizes belief as its system of operation. A belief system doesn't require that you verify any of the information yourself via the five senses. It operates utilizing such things as faith and hope. Our way of life is Mathematics, which is sometimes referred to as Islam, because of its original meaning: A state of peace. Our way of life IS NOT the religion of Islam.

## **3. Are you Muslims?**

No, we do not consider ourselves Muslim. Although the word Muslim technically denotes "one of peace," the commonly understood meaning of "Muslim" is one who submits to what he believes is a higher power in order to find peace. The Blackman is the *Sole Controller* and is the author of peace.

## **4. Are you a part of the NOI?**

We are not members of any organization, nor do we follow any such leadership, nor are we a sect, branch, or offshoot of any organization. However, in terms of the original meaning of the term "Nation of Islam," everything belongs to the Nation of Islam. That is, Islam – in its original sense – is Mathematics and has no beginning nor ending because it is the fundamental structure of the Universe.

## **5. Are you an organization?**

We are not an organization in the sense that we are classified within the structure of United States government. We are a Nation who has within it various different organizations (such as the Board of the Allah Youth Center, Earth Committees, G.O.D. Committees, etc.)

## **6. Do you have temples?**

We are not religious peoples so we do not have temples. What we do have are schools which are outreach centers for the youth.

## **7. Do you have a headquarters?**

Our primary headquarters in terms of the preservation of our history and the continuation of our determined idea to save the babies is at the root of Civilization in Mecca (Harlem) known as Allah's Youth Center.

## **8. Do you have leaders?**

Each man is his own leader. By critical examination of the history of Black people in the U.S., you can see that anytime a leader galvanizes our people, he is assassinated or rendered ineffective. In fact, this was attempted with us

by the assassination of Allah, the Father. Yet he prepared this Nation to survive after his physical death by removing the “office” of leader, and pushing us to realize that we all need to utilize a sovereign mentality and come together as one. This is exemplified in our governing process which is called a Parliament. Anyone is able to address the whole body, offering direction and suggestions. From this governing body, we then organize committees to carry out the agreed upon idea. We also have elders within our Nation whom we respect as transmitters of our oral traditions.

### **9. Do you follow the Qur’an or Bible?**

We don’t “follow” any text. We do realize that such written texts are a collection of history, moral directives, and mythology of the Original Man. By critical analyses we can assess which portion of the texts are relevant to our current conditions in the Wilderness of North America and which portions are being utilize to oppress, confuse, and stagnate us.

### **10. If Black men are Gods, why aren’t Black women goddesses?**

We recognize that the duties of the Blackman and Black woman are different within our Nation. When one titles the Black woman as a “goddess” then one is implying that the only difference is gender, yet that the duties are the same. Therefore we have a title more suited to the state of being of the righteous Black woman which is the Earth. “God” and “Earth” clarifies the fact that the duty of the Blackman and the duty of the Black woman are different, yet complementary in nature.

### **11. Is only the Blackman God? / Is only the Black woman Earth?**

Yes. However, by Black, we are referring to all the shades of Original, i.e. Black, Brown, and Yellow.

### **12. Do you hate white people?**

No. We are not pro-Black or anti-white. Many white people come to us to study the truth of themselves and this world. There have been white Five Percenters throughout our history, most notably Azreal, who was taught by Allah in our early days. We do not seek to integrate or separate, but to develop our communities without the interference of outsiders.

### **13. Are all of those rappers really “Five Percenters”?**

The majority of the “rappers” who are identified as “Five Percenters” primarily utilize our language to magnetically attract audiences. Most of them are not true and living. Fulltime rappers are a minority in our Nation. Our Nation has many more Gods and Earths who hold other professions, such as educators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, construction workers, authors, architects, janitors, carpenters, soldiers, etc.

### **14. Are you a gang?**

No. A gang is a group of people organized for criminal activity. There are those who have used our flag to shield their dirty practices by coming in our name and using our language as code. We are civilized people whose duty it is to teach Knowledge and Wisdom to all the human families of the planet Earth. Because we actively engage and educate those who are in the streets,



some individuals inevitably have a hard time leaving their “old ways” behind them. However, if we don’t teach them, who will?

**15. What’s up with that hand sign?**

The peace sign is not a gang sign. It is the exact opposite. The two fingers held up together is the correct hand gesture for peace. It has been utilized for thousands of years by various cultures such as the Nile Valley Civilizations, India, China, Japan, and even early depictions of Christ. Our universal greeting is peace. It is utilized by all civilized cultures in their own languages, i.e., *Salaam*, *Shalom*, *Hoteb*, etc. Peace is the absence of all confusion. We walk the earth in humility, so we greet the people in peace.

**16. Isn’t it just as good to be involved with any religion or culture focused on improving our community?**

While it IS good to be involved with improving the community, and we DO work with people and organizations from all walks of life, it is important to consider what it is that our people really need at this point. Offering the people more religion, or a new religion, will not “free” the people. Also, simply making the people more militant or politically-oriented will not “save” the people if they don’t have the full knowledge of themselves and the nature of who/what they are up against. Finally, an escape to Africa, or a withdrawal into the seclusion of holiness will not help the larger community. While many other groups paved the way, we teach what is needed now, which is why we came when we did.

**17. Do you have a problem with other groups?**

Allah taught us to respect any flag, even the flag of the United States government. Allah also taught us that religious people tend to talk about each other, so we shouldn’t engage in the same. So the answer is no, we have no “beef” with other cultures, groups, or organizations, unless they are clearly about bloodsucking the poor. Even then, we are opposed to the corruption of the leadership, not the misdirection of the followers. We are here FOR the people, all people.

**18. If you have more truth, why don’t you all have more money?**

It is quite easy to collect funding and develop large projects if you have a hierarchy in place, along with a body of followers who will respond to external authority. With associations of freethinking individuals like us, however, you are less likely to find enough slave labor to build a pyramid, but more likely to inspire widespread changes throughout the world. The latter has always been our primary aim. While many Gods and Earths have established incredible for-profit and nonprofit ventures, this receives less attention than it would among groups that actively seek recognition.

**19. How do I become a Five Percenter?**

Find an educator who is qualified to teach (knows 120 degrees by heart, has a good reputation among the NGE, etc.) and travel, if necessary, to start studying in person. As we’ve explained elsewhere, this culture has to be learned through direct interaction with credible individuals.

# GLOSSARY

**10%:** Those who know that the Blackman is God yet conceal this fact. They manipulate the poor and get rich off of the poor's labor, as the poor allow themselves to be exploited in pursuit of an elusive concept of happiness and heaven.

**5%:** Those who know that the Blackman is God, teach that fact, and work to bring about freedom, justice and equality for the masses.

**85%:** In general usage, it refers to non-members of the Nation of Gods and Earths. Technically, it refers to 85% of the population that does not know the truth of God, who do not think for themselves, and who are thus easily led in the wrong direction but hard to lead in the right direction.

**Allah School:** Usually refers to the street academy in Harlem and outreach center for the youth located at 2122 7th Avenue, NY, NY 10027. However, when used in connection with the name of another city, the term can refer to that cipher's local street academy (e.g., Allah School in Medina, also known as Akbar's Community Center, at 318 Livonia, in Brooklyn, NY)

**Asiatic:** Term utilized to show the oneness of Original People. "Asia" is one of the first terms used to express a 'world' consciousness (outside of national boundaries). "Asia" is also synonymous with concepts of the former supercontinent Pangaea.

**Black:** Used collectively to refer to any non-white person (Brown and Yellow being shades of Black) and not regulated to just African descent. Also used in conjunction with "seed," "shade" or "soil" to refer to those of the darkest shade of any non-white ethnic group.

**Breaking it down:** Taking a complex lesson and reducing it to simple concepts. From the highest to the lowest.

**Brown:** Used in conjunction with "seed," "shade," or "soil" to refer to those of a medium shade of any non-white ethnic group.

**Build/Building:** Constructive communication and/or tangible work.

**Cipher:** When the Gods and Earths come together to Build.

**Civilize:** To teach someone how to adhere to codes of conduct.

**Devilishment:** Wicked and/or oppressive/exploitative behaviors or systemic practices. The opposite of righteousness, or behavior opposed to righteousness. SYN. devilment, devilishness, deviltry, devilry.

**Drawing it up:** Taking a simple concept and adding more layers of depth. From the lowest to the highest.

**First Born:** Used by itself, the term refers to those who were selected by ALLAH to represent his teachings. Used in relation to a city outside of Mecca, the term refers to the first group of people to take on the knowledge in that city (e.g., the First Born of Medina).

**Fruit:** A term used by some to refer to those whom they taught. Related to the term “Tree.” Also can refer to one’s physical children.

**Graft:** To remove something from its original state through a process (like selective breeding), producing a weaker end result.

**Honorable Elijah Muhammad:** Leader of the Nation of Islam from 1934 until his death in 1975. Referred to as the Messenger of Allah and also under the acronym of T.H.E.M. (The Honorable Elijah Muhammad).

**Master Fard Muhammad:** Founder of the Nation of Islam in North America. He led the Nation of Islam from 1930 until 1934 when he mysteriously disappeared. He is also referred to as the Prophet.

**Muslim:** A term used to refer to those who follow the religion of Islam. Muslim means one who submits to the will of Allah. The Gods and Earths do not consider themselves Muslims.

**Muslim son:** Within 120 degrees this refers to a white male who climbs the ladder of Freemasonry and then becomes inducted into the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine also known as the Shriners. Nowadays it has been used more loosely to refer to white males who knowingly study various sciences of the Original Man.

**Mystery god:** The concept of an invisible, intangible ‘god’ that supposedly dwells in the sky.

**Original:** Used synonymously with Black, refers to any non-white person or group of people.

**Parliament:** The gathering of the Gods and Earths where Nation business is conducted. There is one monthly Universal Parliament in NYC and local Parliaments that happen across the United States.

**Rally:** Whenever the Gods and Earths gather together. Every Parliament is a Rally yet every Rally is not a Parliament.

**Savage:** A “savage” according to 120 degrees refers to someone who has lost all knowledge of himself and is living a beast way of life. In common usage the term refers to an often illicit lifestyle characterized by indiscretion.

**Seed:** Man or boy.

**Soil:** Woman or girl.

**Tree:** The way in which some members of the Nation trace their lineage to ALLAH through one of the first born.

**Word is bond:** The concept that one’s word is as binding as any promise or legal signature.

**Yellow:** Used in conjunction with “seed,” “shade,” or “soil” to refer to those of the lightest shade of any non-white ethnic group.