

RAP, RACE AND REVOLUTION

SOLUTIONS FOR OUR STRUGGLE

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The following excerpts are snippets from the upcoming *Rap, Race and Revolution: Solutions for Our Struggle*. This book is the follow-up title to the dynamic self-empowerment manual *How to Hustle and Win: A Survival Guide for the Ghetto, Part One*.

The author uses true stories from the lives of Black gangsters, hustlers, rappers, and revolutionaries to illustrate important life lessons for young Black men struggling to survive in today's society. *How to Hustle and Win* began the journey, introducing important ideas at an elementary level, while this book pushes the reader to even greater growth and development.

By the time a reader is finished with *Rap, Race and Revolution*, they will be prepared to do much more than simply "survive":

- They will have learned about over sixty personalities important to Black history.
- They will be informed on current events and world politics.
- They will have increased their vocabulary, reading ability, and critical thinking skills to a collegiate level.
- They will be exposed to ideas and concepts that the average college graduate has never considered.
- They will have eliminated dozens of self-destructive attitudes and behaviors, and replaced them with a formula for success.
- They will be equipped with an array of practical solutions for the serious problems affecting our communities.
- They will be determined to bring about a revolutionary change in themselves, their community, and the world.

Put simply, this book is transformational. On an individual level, it provides practical solutions for anyone struggling to survive, but it will also empower readers to go out and transform their communities.

Enjoy the following excerpts from *Rap, Race and Revolution: Solutions for Our Struggle* (368 pages, published by Supreme Design, LLC.).

Available everywhere April 19nd, 2009!

Order your copy directly at www.HustleAndWin.com

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IF EINSTEIN WAS BLACK

If Albert Einstein grew up Black, in the hood, he'd be probably turn out to be a crackhead and a deadbeat dad. If Thomas Edison grew up Black, in the ghetto, he'd probably be a crack dealer. And that would be it. Their life stories would never make it into your school textbooks, and the world would never even know they existed. Unless maybe they were arrested in some high profile case. You think I'm exaggerating? Let me elaborate.

Albert Einstein

Einstein didn't even say his first words until he was four years old. He was quiet, but still a terrible student throughout his schooling years. He regularly cut class. In college, people called him "a slacker."

He graduated college, which he called a "torturing duty," thanks to a friend who let him copy class notes. Upon his graduation, he commented:

For a dreamer like me, university studies were not always a blessing. If we are forced to constantly eat

Did You Know?

Housing projects were designed as "housing experiments" (thus the name "projects"). They were used to see how poor people would respond to living in cramped conditions.

As the author of the important book *From Niggas to Gods* says, there are OBVIOUS natural consequences to putting hopeless creatures into conditions so cramped and desperate that few have enough resources to survive. Studies show that if you put enough rats into small boxes with nothing else to do, they'll have babies, but then they'll run out of room. Eventually they'll begin killing each other, and even eat their young. And that's what the projects, the ghetto, the hood, and the TRAP, are all about!

selected meals, we can permanently spoil our stomach and lose our appetite. Luckily, in my case, this intellectual depression, after the completion of my studies, lasted no more than a year.

Einstein's daydreamin ass couldn't stomach the rigmarole of the formal educational system, but he was passionate about pursuing studies in his own interests. He focused his attention intensely into things he was fascinated by, or which he wanted to understand. If he were alive today, he'd probably watch nothing but the Discovery Channel. Then again, he'd probably do a little more than just watching TV. But then again, probably none of that if he grew up in the hood.

He would have been diagnosed with autism, ADHD, and dyslexia (which he was), but he'd be pushed into a Special Ed. program, where he'd be ignored by teachers and harassed by other students until eventually dropping out of a high school he'd have no hope of finishing anyway. Then working some minimum dead-end wage job, while still yearning to understand a vast world that was totally, impossibly, out of his reach, Einstein would be a drug addict in no time.

Thomas Edison

On the other hand, Thomas Edison was the definition of a hyperactive child. He never stopped asking questions, couldn't sit still, and had a hard time focusing on school work (he daydreamed too). As a result, the young Edison constantly disrupted classes. His teacher thought he was slow, that he "could not grasp anything," and labeled him retarded! His mom, sensing a flaw in the formal system of education, decided to homeschool him. Since his parents had tons of books at home, he read what he was interested in and basically taught himself.

This course of instruction evolved into Edison's passion for scientific inquiry. He became a tireless researcher, often working late nights, and sleeping on a bench in his laboratory. Totally obsessed with his work, he would sometimes forget to eat. His wandering mind actually helped to look at situations from many different perspectives, allowing him to find answers and explanations for some of the most challenging problems.

But in the ghetto today, a Thomas Edison (or better) is born every minute. And kids like him who can't sit still, who want more than what their teacher can offer, who have endless questions...what happens to them? They get shot down and shut down. And their lives spiral out of control til they're shot down or locked up. Edison would have been a

clever-ass dope boy, I bet. He'd probably come up with ingenious new ways to cook, market, and conceal his product. He'd probably make a ton of money selling to ghetto Einsteins before being taken down. But besides an episode of BET's *American Gangster*, you'd never hear about him.

"He who teaches speaks to the future."
Ptahhotep

If you read *Part One*, you know that (A) We ain't stupid by far, and most of us have incredible untapped intellect (see "9 Signs We Ain't Stupid") and (B) Our people are constantly misdiagnosed with made-up shortcoming (see "Mental Illnesses in the Black Community"). But we can reverse that. We gotta start looking for untapped talent in the young people around us. And let's start showing them alternate routes to success. School won't work for everybody. But those of us who can't hack it in school don't have to be failures all around. That little knucklehead down the block may be the best auto mechanic, painter, airplane pilot, landscaper, business owner, jeweler, sculptor, or plumber ever...they just need to be shown the way. If not, all our Einsteins and Edisons are going to waste.

Without guidance and opportunities, we're all bound to fail.

* * *

10 REASONS WE CAN'T COME UP

1. "That's not my department" (Apathy)

An early supporter of Hitler during his rise to power, Martin Niemöller later came to oppose the Nazi regime. Niemöller's status in the world of the wealthy and powerful saved him until 1937, when he too was imprisoned by the Nazis. His poem "First They Came" can teach us a lot about the consequences of apathy:

First they came for the Communists – but I was not a communist so I did not speak out.

Then they came for the Socialists and the Trade Unionists – but I was neither, so I did not speak out.

Then they came for the Jews – but I was not a Jew so I did not speak out.

And when they came for me, there was no one left to speak out for me.

If you're not doing anything to help save the rest of us, who will be left to save you? Well, Dr. King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." So why is it so hard for us to pick up a fight that we feel is not ours? Sure thousands of people came out for Jena 6, but

how often does that happen? And how many of those people were willing to go to jail to fight for those boys? But think about it on a personal level. When is the last time that YOU stopped a crime or injustice from happening? I don't mean sicking the cops on someone either. Do you fight on behalf of others, or do you sit by idly while people are done wrong? I know a lot of tough guys who wouldn't think to stop someone from snatching an old lady's purse, and much less to give up their seat on the bus for her. The Jews today teach their children "Help another Jew," but do we teach the same for our own?

Or do we teach our children that it's every man for themselves?

Here's two quotes that make a lot of sense to me. Properly applied, the "golden rule" could change a lot of our lives.

If you're concerned about others, it makes immediate sense. Just don't underestimate the importance of even the smallest gestures of consideration. As inspirational author Leo Buscaglia has said:

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

But even if you're only thinking about yourself, don't forget that there are studies proving how acts of kindness and generosity actually improve the mental and physical well-being of the people doing them. Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, has said:

The greatest degree of inner tranquility comes from the development of love and compassion. The more we care for the happiness of others, the greater is our own sense of well-being.

So, the next time you see someone needing a hand, or simply an ear, what are you gonna do?

Take responsibility for yourself AND others. "We" instead of "I"

2. "I'll get to it later" (Procrastination)

I guess if you're the type of person who's used to getting a check a certain time every month, you won't have too much of an independent hustler grind in you. No, you're on their clock, and you've been conditioned to wait on them. So the idea of being a "go-getter" may be foreign to you. Ambition drives people to wake up with work on their mind. Unfortunately, most of us wake up with sleep on our mind. So when given the chance, we'd rather sleep than work. We'd rather lie in wait than pursue opportunity. And rather than seize the day, we let the shot clock run out without attempting a single basket. Think about

it. What's on your to do list? How much of it did you get done TODAY?

Don't put off til tomorrow what can be done today.

3. "I'm mad enough to..." (Emotionalism)

In Kwami K. Kwami's *The Tables Have Turned: A Street Guide to Guerrilla Lamfare*, former special agent Dr. Tyrone Powers explains:

During the time I was in the FBI, working intelligence issues, a report came across my desk. And it was in regards to going out and talking to African-Americans, interviewing them about intelligence issues, or crimes, and things of that sort, and a document came out of the Behavioral Science Unit at Quantico, Virginia, and **it said that African-Americans, or blacks in America, were an emotional people, but not an intellectual people.** And there's nothing wrong being emotional. We should be emotional. But what they were saying is this. That **an issue will come up. They may get angry about it, they may protest, they might hold vigils, they may hold marches, but then they will go away, without there being any logical conclusion to it.** But based on this analysis, you have to understand this report that comes out to almost all the intelligence agencies, to the police intelligence agencies. This is the way you deal with African-Americans, this is the way you deal with them, whether you're conducting an interview, or any other kind of investigation. Or if they're holding a protest, or if there's a police brutality shooting. Sure, they'll protest for a while, but let them have their protest, and they'll go away.

Like David Banner says on "So Long":

Mrs. Catherine Johnson was murdered by police/ In north-west Atlanta but I don't hear it in the streets/ Where the anger in the hood for this old lady dying?/...And I got a damn question, why the city ain't pissed off? When I know yall heard shots and little lady got hauled off?/...Y'all gonna march? March to the motherf*cking cops' house, my nigga! Make these motherf*ckers fear something, cause they got US scared. They got niggas scared to go strip clubs, nigga!"

Banner's not talking crazy. In fact, our inability to enact prolonged political action, particularly in the field of active resistance, is a major reason why we rarely get the changes we need. Instead of educating each other on what's wrong and what needs to be done, we rally around empty movements, phony leaders, parades and marches, and the idea that we can sing, scream, or vote our way to freedom.

When's the last time you participated in a march, protest, or other political event?

When's the last time you educated someone who wasn't into politics?

Stop screaming, crying, and marching. Start working and teaching.**4. “Me too!” (The Follower Mindset)**

Do you really think celebrities spend thousands of dollars on clothes? Only the stupid ones do. Most of the rappers talking bout thousand dollar jeans are getting those jeans FREE. Celebrities get free stuff so often that they don’t have to buy clothes, cars, or alcohol if they don’t want it. The companies send it to them for promotion. Even Lil Kim, who was notorious for bragging about her Versace and Fendi sh*t, admitted a while back that she hadn’t actually bought an outfit in years.

But what about you? It’s not like Bentleys are the *most* attractive – or high-performing – cars. And platinum isn’t *really* the best looking material for jewelry. And most of that high-end designer sh*t is really ugly or gay. And you know it! But you’re willing to follow along. Why?

And this syndrome applies to all kinds of trends. We see others doing something, and feel like it makes sense to do it too. But just because your rich white boss is voting Republican and smoking a Cuban cigar doesn’t mean you’ll enjoy those things. Especially since he’s probably also propositioning gay sex in public restrooms. You gonna do that too?

Followers aren’t good for much except being used by leaders.

* * *

22 GUIDELINES FOR WOMEN

I had no idea how many women would read my book. Turns out that a lot of the men reading *How to Hustle and Win* found out about it because their women pushed them to read it! That’s a beautiful thing, ladies. And I hope y’all men can do the same and push some of these young dudes to read this revolutionary sh*t as well. But I don’t just want to write ABOUT women. Many of the lessons in both books can apply to any gender (or race, or class, or whatever), but I wanted to dedicate some space specifically to the ladies. I hope this helps you on your journey. I know it’s a tough road for you too.

1. **Don’t get “a-dick-ted.”** This is the #1 reason why y’all stay in bad, even abusive, relationships. You know the pussy has power, but stop letting it overpower your damn *mind*. Use the pussy, don’t let it use you.
2. **Don’t become a high-class hoe.** When I say “use” the pussy, I’m not saying that you offer it in exchange for goods or services.

That's really called prostitution. You don't need an escort service or a pimp to hoe yourself. So let sex only result from love and passion, not the pursuit of what you want from a man.

3. **Passion can be a problem.** A passionate woman is a thrill to spend time with, but your passion can lead you down a road to your own destruction. Before you let your feelings determine what choices you make, always consult your logical mind first. If it don't make sense for the long run, leave it alone. It'll suck, but it's better than the bullsh*t.
4. **Enjoy the XXX years.** I'm talking about the years from 18-24, where you should eXplore, eXperience, and eXperiment to your heart's content. That's your time to find yourself, including what you really enjoy, what you don't, and what you just want to try once to get it out of your damn system.
5. **Test drive a few cars before you buy one.** Especially during those XXX years. Date someone from each sign of the Zodiac. See what fits you best. Or date different types of men (businessman, hustler, nerd, country boy, athlete, etc.). Try different jobs, consider different approaches to life. You may have not found your perfect path yet!
6. **But don't make any life-changing decisions.** If you're in those XXX years and you do decide to date a hustler, don't carry his dope. If you date an athlete, don't have his kids (even if you want that six-digit child support). Even if you meet a real good dude (you hope), don't marry him until you've been with him long enough to have survived some real drama. Above all, think things through.
7. **Don't put money over happiness.** I know a lot of corporate women who love telling me how "liberated" and "independent" they are. But they're also miserable. They can't help but keep coming back to the idea that they'll die alone. And who wants that? Don't put aside having a family and children to pursue a million-dollar dream. In fact, the *right* kind of family will HELP you get to your dreams.
8. **Stop accepting less than you deserve.** Yes, I know there's a man shortage out there. But when you date someone who doesn't deserve you, it just makes the rest of us mad as hell. There are good men out there. They may not drive fancy cars or wear

expensive suits, but they'll make sure you're happy. And what's better than that?

* * *

12. **Potential ain't enough.** First of all, "potential" alone shouldn't satisfy you enough to stick around forever. And if you do plan on "changing" or "molding" him (instead of just encouraging him), guess what? No woman respects a man she "makes."
13. **Let him be a man.** Support him when he's down, and encourage him to do better. That doesn't mean nag him until he runs away. I've met a lot of women who have tried begging their man to read *Part One*, and it just doesn't work that way. If you are in love with a man who's just not "with it," you can't try to "make" him get with it. For any man with a decent pair of nuts, you've got to **let him lead**. *Ask* him what he thinks. Ask him to *teach* you about things you secretly want *him* to learn.
14. **Don't let miserable people coordinate your happiness.** Letting one of your single girlfriends (or your single mama) tell you about what to do with your relationship is like letting Britney Spears give you advice on being a responsible parent.

* * *

THE UNSTOPPABLE AK-47

"No se vive celebrando victorias, sino superando derrotas."
(Live your life not celebrating victories, but overcoming defeats.)
Che Guevara

The AK-47 is the most popular weapon in the world – not to mention in the hood. But while we may only know them as "choppers," to millions of people, the AK-47 is known as "the gun that changed the world" or "the gun of a thousand revolutions."



In *AK-47: The Weapon that Changed the Face of War*, Larry Kahaner details the history of the Automatic Kalashnikov – 47, named after its inventor, Soviet

soldier Mikhail Kalashnikov, and the year it was made, 1947.

Since its birth, the gun has undergone very few changes. The AK-47 is essentially the same weapon it was 60 years ago. Because people still have – and use – AKs from 40 years ago, there's no way to know

exactly how many are currently in service. But it's a pretty safe bet that there's as many as 100 million of these deadly weapons out there right now. That's one AK for every 60 people. Unfortunately, that means the AK-47 is also in the hands of corrupt militias in Africa and street gangs in America (in both cases leading to pointless and bloody civil war).

Did You Know?

Rico Todriquez Wright recently joined the ranks of over a dozen dummies who have incriminated themselves with their rap lyrics. He shot a man twice and felt so good about it, police said, that he wrote a song describing the shooting and calling out his victim by name. A judge sentenced the 25-year-old to spend the next 20 years in prison and another 20 years on probation. All because his victim, Chad Blue, recognized Rico rapping, "Chad Blue knows how I shoot," on what was probably a wack song anyway.

"That A-K-K-K
In the back of the Chevrolet
Killed so many niggas it joined the KKK"
Killer Mike, "Gat Totin"

But with a gun as reliable as the AK-47, everyone wants one. In fact, U.S. soldiers are known to toss their military-issue M16s and pick up enemy AKs instead. The AK's simple design and reliability made it a favorite of rebel movements worldwide – its image can even be

found on the flags of some African and Middle Eastern nations. Back when they hoped to overthrow America and Europe by supporting revolutionary movements in Asia and Africa, the Soviets sent them thousands of AK-47s, sometimes for free. Sometimes, it paid off. AK-47s were not only used by Vietcong guerrillas and Che Guevara's forces, but in nearly every revolutionary movement since the 1950s.

In 2005, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, one of the most vocal leaders in the fight against global white supremacy, ordered 100,000 AK-47s for his army. Since then, he announced that his country will produce AKs in its own factories, as has the government of Nigeria. I smell revolution brewing.

Why is the AK so successful? After all, there are dozens of rifles that are more precise and comfortable to use. But the AK-47 has two big things going for it:

1. It's cheap. In many war-torn countries, you can get one for \$10 U.S..
2. It will never let you down.

I'm not exaggerating with the second reason. The AK-47 may not be very accurate, but it'll fire about 700 rounds per minute. It's also almost jam-free.

"What does not destroy me, makes me stronger."

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844-1900)

You can drag it through mud, drop it in a lake, leave it buried in your backyard for a year, dig it up, kick it once, and it will fire like you just had it cleaned. The *Discovery Channel* did a special on the world's ten best weapons, and the AK-47 came in at number 2 (the human mind was number 1). In the video, which I'm sure you can find on YouTube (a valuable search engine for finding *visual* information on just about *anything* you want to learn), they submerged an AK in water, buried it in sand, and even ran it over with a Humvee...and it still fired like new.

Not only that, but the AK can fire cheaply produced bullets and even bullets that have been sitting out forever in the desert sun or jungle rain.

To top it all off, the AK can be used with almost no training. Overnight, it'll turn a ragtag band of street thugs into a military force. As a result, the AK has shifted the balance of power in warfare by allowing small, determined groups, not just armies, to overthrow entire governments. Thus, the AK-47 itself symbolizes the determination of rebel groups to persist and persevere no matter what. Up against all odds, revolutionaries must become indestructible in order to succeed. They must withstand being buried under pain, pressure, poverty, and every possible problem, and still come up out the dirt *bustin*.

As Jim Jones says on the Diplomats' "Beautiful Noise"

Sh*t, and Uncle Ricky got a month and some change/
And it feels like a garbage truck just dumping the pain/
All on my shoulders, I'm warning my soldiers/
The nights could get chilly, but the morning's much colder/
I've seen summers get cold/ And niggas do it up until the point where
they done and they fold/...I gotta keep striving, I gotta keep moving, I
gotta keep grinding/ If this was the road, and I was a trucker, then sh*t
man, I gotta keep driving

A real man, whether revolutionary or ordinary, understands that he must be reliable as the AK-47: Put him through anything, and he will still come out fighting. Eventually, he will win.

**Persistence overcomes resistance.
What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger.**

* * *

HATERS AND MOTIVATORS

"Know that those who hate you are more numerous than those who love you."
Chananga (African) proverb

RAP, RACE AND REVOLUTION

As Plies told *The Source Magazine* in December 2007:

The nigga who came up with [the idea of] “street niggas,” hated on everything they couldn’t do. They couldn’t go to college so they hated. They couldn’t play ball so they hated. The sad part was the more times you been to prison, niggas wanna give you stripes. You been locked up fifteen times don’t mean you gangsta. That mean’s you ain’t good at what you do.

What he’s saying is that being a “street nigga” is not a script he’s trying to stick to. The idea of a “street nigga” is something people made up to keep other people (us) in the hole where they want them to be. Either it’s white America telling you how to act, or it’s the dudes living next door to you telling you the same dumb sh*t.

“A man who can’t dance thinks the band is no good.”
Polish proverb

Now that’s a hater...but you can take that hate any way you want. A smart man takes his haters and sees them as motivation to do better. After all, as Plies said, people usually hate on whatever they can’t do. So look at it this way:

Haters	Motivators
A hater makes you doubt yourself.	A motivator makes you want to prove yourself.
A hater shows other people what’s wrong with you.	A motivator shows you what’s wrong with other people.
A hater causes you to worry about losing what you have.	A motivator causes you to work harder to have more.
A hater makes you lose sleep.	A motivator makes you not want to sleep.
A hater attacks your flaws.	A motivator shows you your weaknesses.
A hater is usually jealous of you.	A motivator may actually want the best for you.
A hater thinks they’re better than you.	A motivator wants you to be better than you are.
A hater’s words aren’t nice or helpful.	A motivator’s words may not be nice, but they can help you.
A hater wants you to give them more.	A motivator wants you to give yourself more.
A hater targets weakness.	A motivator targets weakness.
A hater will either push you or crush you.	A motivator will either push you or crush you.

For every hater you have, you have one motivator, because life is how you see it. Only the unsuccessful nobodies are free from having critics. Your critics are either going to be the worst thing in your life, or the best thing in your life. It’s up to you.

“As steel sharpens steel, so one man sharpens another.”
Proverbs 27:17

But to be realistic, some of us are a little too worried about imaginary haters keeping us down. In the immortal words of Soulja Slim on “Soulja Life Mentality”:

And these niggas out here, talking bout a nigga hatin on them. F*ck you talking bout? A *nigga* hatin on you? Bitch ass nigga, you know who hatin on you? The D.A. and the judge, that’s who hatin on your bitch ass, nigga! The polices and all that type of sh*t, nigga. F*ck you talkin bout? A *NIGGA* hatin on you??

Steel Sharpens Steel

Haters? That was the least of my problems. Before I was even successful enough to be worthy of “haters,” I had people who criticized everything from the way I walked to the shoes on my feet. Like most of the kids in my neighborhood, I grew up defensive. We learned how to defend ourselves against sticks and stones, as well as the words that certainly hurt...though we could never show it.

We learned how to “play the dozens,” also known as “snappin,” “roastin,” or “joning,” dependin on where you come from. We talked about each other until somebody said something personal, and then we were ready to fight. We protected our personal space, and didn’t allow anyone to get too close to our face or to touch us if they didn’t know us...even if it was accidental. We grew up like child soldiers in war-torn Sierra Leone, always looking out for any act of aggression. In many ways, we *were* soldiers. We just had no idea which side we were on. Confused and led astray, we endlessly fought against each other. Sometimes we simply *waited* for somebody to disrespect us, just so we could show our manhood by crushing them.

Years later, I was still affected. I used to see every criticism as a personal attack. Even in college, I damn near fought professors for marking up reports that I thought were A+ material...but weren’t. I couldn’t hear what was really wrong. I wasn’t listening. I didn’t care. I felt like I was right. In many ways, I was just protecting my personal space in the way we did as kids. When I felt disrespected, I either became defensive or offensive. Either way, I was ready to attack.

Maybe I was insecure. Hell, we probably all are. Growing up in this awful place, where we are constantly made to feel less than human – it does that to you. It makes you doubt your very reason for living, and at the same time, it makes you very angry at anybody who makes you doubt yourself more.

I thought any comment or suggestion was a personal attack. I looked at any critique on my views as a declaration of war. I saw any judgement passed on anything about me as putting down my whole existence. The words, “You’re wrong” were almost fighting words.

It’s taken me years to learn to appreciate that it takes steel to sharpen steel. You simply can’t buy a knife, use it for years, and expect it to remain sharp. What keeps it sharp? Carrots?

No, you need to sharpen that knife with a material that is as hard, or harder. The reason most of us are so dull is because we fear another man improving us. When someone says we’re wrong, we could go back and try to figure out why they said that, and then work on fixing the problem...but we don’t. We practice something known to psychologists as “cognitive dissonance.”

Cognitive dissonance means that, when faced with a view that is different from our own behavior, we do one of 3 things:

1. We change our behavior.
2. We ignore what we’re being told by changing what we think about the person telling us.
3. We justify our behavior by making excuses.

If it’s not obvious, the first response is the rarest. People don’t change like that. They’d rather change their relationship with you before they’ll change something that may be wrong with them. Fortunately, I’ve grown out of that. I respect – and even desire – for other people to tell me where I’m slipping. The way I see it, it only makes me better.

Can you handle criticism? Or are you defensive? Or offensive?

Do you ask people for advice on how you can step your game up?

Steel sharpens steel. Let criticism improve you.

* * *

POOR RIGHTEOUS TEACHERS

Allah the Father

On February 22, 1928, Clarence Smith was born in the small, segregated town of Danville, Virginia. As a teenager, he came with his mother to New York City where she hoped to find work. After struggling through a series of odd jobs, Clarence decided to join the Army. He ended up on the frontlines of



the Korean War, where he earned several medals for bravery and combat.

After his return home, he learned about the Nation of Islam and joined. His speaking ability and expertise in the martial arts helped him move up quickly. Observing his leadership skills, the NOI leadership gave Clarence the opportunity to teach classes.

But Clarence, now named Clarence 13X, didn't always stick to the script. As the lessons of the NOI clearly say that the Black man is the original man and God of the universe, Clarence 13X began teaching the Muslims that they were God, and shouldn't look outside themselves for answers. This didn't sit well with the NOI leadership. Rather than create a rift, Clarence left the mosque. He changed his name to Allah, and began teaching street youths in his Harlem neighborhood.

Almost instantly, Allah was the man to see. Every thug and hustler from each of the five boroughs wanted to know more about this new teaching. When they came to Allah, thinking he was some kind of new God, he told them they could see God in themselves as well. Instead of a sermon about salvation from outside forces, Allah taught them a different concept of God: one combining manhood and divinity. Although he required them to study and memorize the NOI lessons which had opened his own eyes, he required them to use critical thinking in applying the teachings to their own lives. Allah also gave them a simple way to analyze and understand the complexities of the universe. These teachings were known as the Supreme Mathematics and Supreme Alphabets. As Lord Jamar raps on "Greatest Story Never Told:

Allah made Supreme Mathematics, Supreme Alphabets/ A profound way to break it down/ He took it to the poor and the hardcore/ Young thugs and niggas on drugs.../ They called Allah 'the Father,' they were from broken homes/ And this man was the only father they had known

Allah didn't preach to them about abstaining from drinking or smoking, because he knew that would only run away his most promising students. Instead he pushed them to pursue an understanding of everything they did, which naturally led them to rethink their habits. As the youth spread word of this new teaching, Allah taught in more and more depth.

"No one saves us but ourselves, no one can and no one may."
Siddhartha Gautama, one of many Buddhas

His students called themselves “Five Percenters,” for the five percent of the population who are not followers, who – instead of believing what they are told – know the truth and share it with those who don’t. Allah didn’t teach them to pray to or wait on a savior from above. He taught them to save themselves...and then to save others. Starting with the first nine he taught, Allah had required each Five Percenter to teach nine others. By 1967, the Five Percenters had grown to the thousands.

Although Allah was constantly criticized by other Black leaders, many of whom said he wasn’t militant enough, Allah was content knowing that he was helping troubled youth take control of their lives. Many of them were now in school or working. Now there were young Gods and Earths everywhere. But this was the 1960s, and this “Black God” teaching was considered to be explosive. In three years since he had begun working with youth, Allah had attracted the attention of everyone from the Mayor of New York to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI. Allah was soon under constant surveillance. The CIA’s COINTELPRO documents described a top priority of theirs as “preventing the rise of a messiah in the ghetto.” Allah was high on the hitlist. In 1965, he was thrown in a mental institution for claiming to be God in court. While there, he continued teaching. Twice, he had been shot and critically wounded in failed murder attempts. One of those times, Allah had charged the shooter, yelling in his Southern accent, “Bring it on, lollipop!” before being blasted with an elephant gun, one of the most powerful rifles on the streets at the time.

Still, Allah was undeterred. He knew that no one else would teach young people of color how to save themselves; many times, it seemed no one even cared. But Allah cared enough to risk his own life. Even as people made death threats against both him and many of the young Five Percenters, they continued to teach. When they were thrown in jails, they continued to teach. When they were offered incentives to join other organizations, they refused and continued to teach Allah’s lessons.

By 1968, Allah would often remark that he knew something would happen to him. A young Five Percenter named Kalim told him, “Tell me who it is, Allah. I’ll take care of them! Just tell me!” But Allah laughed, and explained that it *had* to be this way.

On June 13, 1969, Allah was entering the building where his wife lived. He stepped onto the elevator, and was ambushed by gunmen. Knowing Allah’s strength and survival skills, they shot him several

times from behind. The forces behind the assassination obviously believed that by killing Allah, they could stop the growth of the Five Percenters. But the Five Percent's teaching continued to spread, reaching across the entire country over the next forty years.

Today, there are Gods and Earths in nearly every major city and state in America (even Alaska and Hawaii), Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, England, Germany, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Japan, and probably other places you'd never even think to look. And they continue to teach. So was Allah really killed? Or did he live on through his works?

"You could have a million dollars and a white collar
Liberation costs more than a damn dollar
It costs what Christ gave, King gave, X gave
A billion dollars don't make you an ex-slave"
Killer Mike, "Pressure"

That's a pretty easy question. One that requires more thought is: What did he get out of what he did? He never took an offering, tithe, donation, or handout, unlike many other leaders. He knew he would be killed, and did not quit. He knew many hated him for what he taught, and did not change. Why did he do it?

It's called altruism. Altruism is defined as giving or doing for others without expecting anything in return. In the 1700s, Dr. Samuel Johnson observed, "To act with pure benevolence is not possible for finite beings. Human benevolence is mingled with vanity, interest, or some other motive." Maybe that was true for Europeans like Johnson. But *we* are greater than that. And culturally, taking care of others is what we naturally do. But we're a long way from home, and we don't think like we once did. So yes, obviously, true altruism is rare now. How many people do you know that do good...and expect no benefit? Are you sure? If you can't come up with anyone, make it *your* agenda, and name yourself. How often do you "do good" just for the sake of doing good?

Ol' Dirty Bastard

Allah's teaching made it to thousands of people over the past four decades. One of those people was Russell Jones, who many of us knew as the Ol' Dirty Bastard. When I met him, I didn't meet someone who fit the description of a dirty bastard. I met the sincere, intelligent brother known to the Gods and Earths as Unique Ason Allah. When I heard the following story, it struck me as true to Allah's teaching:



One weekend in February of 1998, Ol' Dirty Bastard was in the studio recording with a Wu Tang label group in Brooklyn. Dirty heard the screech of tires on the street outside. He rushed outside to see that a four-year-old girl had been hit by a car near the studio. The child was trapped underneath the vehicle when Dirty and some of the other brothers rushed to her aid.

Incredibly, they lifted the burning car off of her. Dirty actually crawled under the vehicle to rescue the little girl.

She was taken to the hospital and treated for first and second degree burns from the car's engine. Dirty visited the hospital to check on the girl's condition, but the normally anything-but-low key ODB never identified himself to her family. However, they recognized him and alerted the media. Even after she recovered, Dirty continued to check on her periodically.

Does it take a superhero to exhibit superhuman consideration for others? When's the last time you did something along those lines?

* * *

EAT SH*T

Derrick Simons was escorted into court by two armed guards. Simons was to stand trial for an attack on a neo-nazi gang. As the judge read the charges, Simons fidgeted around and appeared not to be listening. When the judge asked him if he understood the charges against him, Simons finally looked the judge in the eyes. He smiled, reached into the back of his pants, retrieved a handful of brown goo, and promptly ate it. Smearing his face, he licked his hand clean of the leftovers.

Completely disgusted, the judge took a while to recover from the shock of seeing this happen. He declared Simons mentally incompetent and admitted him to a psychiatric prison. Simons only spent the next two years receiving therapy and medication for his obvious insanity, and was then released when he was deemed to be sane again.

If anyone ever figures out how Simons did it, they'll never serve peanut butter in jail again.

You get it? Okay. But do you get the lesson? Here it is: depending on your crowd, clicque, or community, you WILL appear crazy at some point. Especially if you start doing something smart around people who are dumb, or something positive around people who are negative...or simply trying something that no one else thinks will work...when you know it will. Can't live with those funny looks? You'll never get free.

**Sometimes, the smartest one in the room
will appear to be the craziest.**

* * *

10 REASONS TO GO TO COLLEGE...AND 6 NOT TO

College doesn't guarantee you a better life, but it can damn sure help. Here are 10 reasons to fill out that long-ass application:

1. It's basically free. And I don't mean only if you get a scholarship, either. Considering that the average college graduate earns thousands more than the average person without a degree, you'll earn back whatever it cost you pretty fast. A college degree opens up a world of opportunities many non-graduates don't have. I'm not saying that you can't do well without the degree, only that a degree can make things a lot easier. For example, college graduates usually earn higher salaries, get better jobs, are approved faster for loans, and are less likely to go to jail. Anyway, student loans are easier to repay than a car loan any day.

2. The girls. If you can't pull a decent girl on a college campus, you seriously need to step your game up. They're everywhere, and they come in every shape, size, complexion, and IQ level. If you're just trying to get you some, there's plenty who are there for that too. Another thing is that if a girl can afford to go to college, she's either got her head on straight, or daddy is paying the bills. Either way, it's worth your time. Not to mention that college girls just seem to be cuter. Just don't overdo it and flunk out.

3. The social life. And yeah, there's gonna be a party somewhere almost everyday. The valedictorian of my graduating class would complete all of his work before 7 pm every day so he could hit the parties and social events later that night. Then there's the brotherhood. Some of my closest friends, even now, are people I went to college with years ago. We went through a lot of sh*t together, and learned to have each other's backs. Places like college, prison, and the ghetto

have a few things in common. One is that, if you don't learn how to join up with others and develop solidarity, it's hard to survive alone.

4. Networking. Speaking of meeting people, college is the ultimate place to network. It's here that you can meet everyone you'll need later on in life. As David Banner told *Look Magazine*:

College is the only think tank that we have as black people and we don't even use it as that. When you go to college you might have a friend who's an accounting major, a friend who wants to be a dentist or a homegirl who might be an attorney. Ya'll should come together and start thinking about the future instead of the present. Then you can network.

You'll need these folks later on, so build your bonds now. Get every full name and email address you can.

5. Freedom and independence. It's not like high school. They don't decide when your classes start. You can schedule all of your classes on 3 days of the week, and be off the other four. Or you can take mostly afternoon and evening classes, and sleep in. No one tells you what to do. The most anyone can do is make suggestions. Either you do what you're supposed to, or you waste your tuition money. That's bad for you irresponsible folks, but for the rest of us, it's a chance to finally do things our way.

6. Leaving home. Whether you're trying to get away from a f*cked-up neighborhood or a f*cked-up family, college allows you to spend at least 9 months of the year somewhere else. Usually, it's somewhere nice, since most college towns are decent places. Even if your home base is okay, at 18, it's about time to spread your wings and fly on your own, baby bird. Only way to do that is by leaving the nest, and having no safety net to fall back on. You want to learn to be a man? Leave home and see if you can handle 12 credit hours, a part-time job, and a social life. You'll be a man in no time. Of course, a lot of people leave home and come to a college campus as a completely different person. Schoolboys become thugs. Sluts become churchgirls. Lames become part of popular fraternities. But you can also do the opposite. You can leave behind all the bad sh*t in your past as well, moving on to do better things, and be a better person.

7. Finding yourself. If you grew up like me, your neighborhood doesn't allow for many opportunities to discover who you really are. There's probably not a lot of people "on your level" to talk to, so you end up doing the same sh*t with the same people more than you'd really like to admit. In college, you'll meet plenty of idiots, but you can also meet a lot of people who are on the same page as you. Also, most

colleges nowadays have a Black Studies department. Beyond just finding yourself on a personal level, attending an HBCU gives you the chance to learn about your people. It may be the first time that you actually hear a teacher say some real sh*t about Black people, and not the watered-down bullsh*t they told us on Black History Month.

* * *

POLICING OUR OWN

Bat Patrol

“Splash!” Two Atlanta police officers driving along a river in Atlanta heard the sounds of something large being dropped into the water. When they went back to investigate, they found the bodies of two young Black males.

In July of 1980, Atlanta police announced that they had linked the murders of the two males, Nathaniel Cater, and Jimmy Ray Payne. By that time, eleven Black children had disappeared or were found slain.

Over a 22-month period beginning in 1979, the bodies of 28 young Black males were found, most of them strangled to death. The serial murders soon became known as the “Atlanta child murders.”

Blacks in Atlanta were panic-stricken. While the government pledged to find the killer, the murders continued. So local people began organizing to police the community themselves.

The Guardian Angels, a group of New York citizens who patrolled the streets and subways of their city to deter crime, came down to Atlanta to teach local youths how to defend themselves. Local school principals gave students whistles to wear around their necks in case they were snatched up. Muhammad Ali donated \$400,000, and

Did You Know?

In 1982, Wayne Williams, 23, was convicted of the murders of Cater and Payne, and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences. Until John Allen Muhammad, the infamous DC Sniper (another suspicious case), Wayne Williams was known as the first, and only, major Black serial killer. But popular opinion - and the evidence - says that Wayne Williams was framed. An extensive Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) file containing crucial information about the possible role of the Ku Klux Klan was not released and was subsequently destroyed. The fraud was so obvious that parents of 14 of the victims asked the Justice Department to reopen the case, and look into the KKK's involvement. Charles Sanders, an active member of the KKK, told a police informant that the Klan was trying to begin a race war by killing Black children. Although Williams was convicted in 1982, children and adults were still being abducted and murdered in Atlanta - in the same pattern - until at least 1989. Wayne Williams remains behind bars, swearing his innocence.

hundreds of thousands more were given by other athletes and celebrities. Most of this money went towards the investigation, local organizations involved in the hunt for the killer, or directly to the families of the victims.

Most importantly, a vigilante group of Blacks armed with baseball bats formed a “Bat Patrol” in the Techwood housing projects to protect Black children. Other vigilante groups sprang up in Black neighborhoods across Atlanta and formed patrols and watches. Rather than waiting for the police to stop a killer, Black people rose up and decided to defend their own communities.

Where is the Bat Patrol in your neighborhood?

Policing the Police

Speaking of policing the criminals in your community, what about the crooked cops? If we truly had community control, we wouldn’t need ANY kind of cops in our communities (see “Lessons on Resistance: Jamaica”). We damn sure wouldn’t need the kind of cops who come from redneck towns and suburbs *outside* of our communities, who look at our people as animals, and who see their jobs as a chance to “lock away a few more niggers.” (If they don’t kill them first, that is)

In some neighborhoods, police don’t even come unless they’re 50 deep, because the residents are known to flip over cop cars or pour garbage cans full of bricks onto their windshields. But there’s much more legitimate ways to deal with the police, even the corrupt ones. Working together, Black people can protect their own communities, from every type of criminal. As the Black Panther Party said in their Self-Defense Platform:

We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of black people. We believe we can end police brutality in our black community by organizing black self-defense groups that are dedicated to defending our black community from racist police oppression and brutality. The second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States gives us a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all black people should arm themselves for self-defense.

How to Shoot a Cop

But everyone doesn’t need to arm themselves. On YouTube, you can find a video series titled “How to Shoot a Cop.” It sounds crazy until you realize that they’re talking about shooting them with a camera. In fact, since the videotaped Rodney King beating, groups like Copwatch have popped up all over the country. Their mission: To deter police

misconduct by routinely filming police in action. You can even see a documentary titled *Copwatch: These Streets Are Watching* free at www.hustleandwin.com. Oh, and in case you're illiterate, I'll repeat: I am *not* telling you to shoot *guns* at police officers.

If someone in your community rapes a woman or molests a child, what will happen to them, if anything?

If the police abuse someone in your community, what will be done, if anything?

Black people don't need outside help to police their communities.

* * *

YOU WANT TO BE COLORBLIND?

Who wants to be colorblind? That means something's wrong with you.

Who wouldn't want to see the diversity of life? Who would want to ignore all the different people and cultures on this planet, and ignore all their unique accomplishments? Why would someone believe that ignoring color was a way to respect people?

The crazy thing is, we wouldn't have to try so hard to be colorblind if the world wasn't so racist. I didn't say America either...I said the world. The only people who need to be colorblind are the people who do the hiring at jobs and the enrollment at schools. That way, we can all have an equal opportunity. Beyond that, it's bullsh*t. First of all, the white people in power will never be colorblind. And they're the ones that matter. But you know who says they're colorblind the loudest? Black people! They want to forget about all the sh*t white people have done, and ignore it, because

Did You Know?

Black was once seen as good? The people of Kemet and many other ancient civilizations believed that black or dark-blue skin was a divine attribute. In Rastafari culture, among others, black is seen as beautiful. In early India, black skin was highly regarded, and babies were coated in sesame oil to make them darker. In Japanese culture, kuro (black) is a symbol of nobility, age, and experience. This has resulted in many martial arts as the black belt being one of the first senior ranks. In the Maasai tribes of Kenya and Tanzania, the color black is associated with rain clouds, becoming a symbol of life and prosperity. Black was also the color of the Arab dynasty of Abbasid caliphs, so black is frequently used in flags of Arab-Muslim countries. Blackness was regarded by ancient people as the source of all existence. The first gods of all the ancient civilizations were Black, including Osiris, Buddha, Krishna, and even Jesus H. Christ.

they're in such a rush to get back to loving them...hoping that white folks will love them back. If you believe that, I've got some jewelry to sell you, too.

Being colorblind means that, when you talk to a Chinese person, you act like them being Chinese is not important. But being Chinese is important. They have a history, a culture, a legacy that they should be proud of...not IGNORED, because "somebody" wants a colorblind society. A "colorblind" society won't do anything but make us ignore the greatness of our people, while dying to fit in and be accepted by people who don't like us anyway.

As my brother I Majestic Allah has written:

The Nation of Gods and Earths is not anti-white, nor pro-Black, yet it doesn't mean that with a "magical eraser" we erase the tide of history that includes colonialism, slavery, Jim Crow laws, racism, the Maafa, segregation, genocide, etc...The REAL effects of the tides of history are still being played out. There are those who BENEFIT from that tide of history. It is RIDICULOUS for anyone to advocate "not pointing it out" or "the past is past."

What we don't do though is DWELL in the past. I manufacture the future by teaching the youth about the past AND who they are NOW. Thus they become the architects of the future.

Ironically Original [Black] peoples are often the ones whom are most often asked to "let bygones be bygones." You never hear anyone asking the Jews to "forget the Holocaust." You never hear anyone asking the U.S. to "forget 9/11." (nor the Alamo or Pearl Harbor) You never hear anyone asking Christians to "forget the Crucifixion."

I could go on and on. Being color blind is a disease and deficiency.

Does treating everyone "equally" meaning seeing everyone as the same?

Want to get deeper into the issue? Try reading *Whitewashing Race: The Myth of a Color-Blind Society* by Michael K. Brown, or *Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States* by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva.

Don't ignore what's right in front of your face.

* * *

QUIZ SIX: ARE YOU WELL-ROUNDED?

It's so important to be a well-rounded individual that I seriously I hope I'm not the first person telling you so. One-dimensional people go NOWHERE in life. So if you want to move up, you'll first need to spread out. Rate yourself on how well the following criteria describes

SOLUTIONS FOR OUR STRUGGLE

you. Don't lie! Circle 1 for "Not at All," 2 for "Not Really," 3 for "I Don't Know," 4 for "Somewhat," and 5 for "Very Much." Get it?

	NA	NR	?	SW	VM
1. I am athletically capable	1	2	3	4	5
2. I am well-read on a variety of subjects	1	2	3	4	5
3. I am artistic, or I enjoy the fine arts	1	2	3	4	5
4. I am comfortable in the ghetto	1	2	3	4	5
5. I am comfortable in high society	1	2	3	4	5
6. I am comfortable around small children	1	2	3	4	5
7. I am comfortable around elders	1	2	3	4	5
8. I am comfortable around other races	1	2	3	4	5
9. I can fight well	1	2	3	4	5
10. I can dance well	1	2	3	4	5
11. I can speak well	1	2	3	4	5
12. I can write well	1	2	3	4	5
13. I can cook well	1	2	3	4	5
14. I can conduct business well	1	2	3	4	5
15. I can fix things around the house	1	2	3	4	5
16. I am good at math	1	2	3	4	5
17. I cheer people up when they're down	1	2	3	4	5
18. I give good advice	1	2	3	4	5
19. I can follow directions well	1	2	3	4	5
20. I can give orders well	1	2	3	4	5
21. I've been outside my country	1	2	3	4	5
22. I understand how people think	1	2	3	4	5
23. I understand proper etiquette	1	2	3	4	5
24. I understand street slang	1	2	3	4	5
25. I understand economics	1	2	3	4	5
26. I understand politics	1	2	3	4	5
27. I understand sports	1	2	3	4	5
28. I understand different religions	1	2	3	4	5
29. I understand the streets	1	2	3	4	5
30. I understand the opposite sex	1	2	3	4	5
31. I am good at relationships	1	2	3	4	5
32. I am open-minded	1	2	3	4	5
33. I have many different types of friends	1	2	3	4	5

Explanation

Now grab a sheet of paper and add up your total score. **Total:** _____

Now take that number and divide it by 33, the number of questions you answered. This will give you your average (it's okay, use a

calculator if you need to). It should be between 1 and 5. **Average Score:** _____

Average 1.0 - 2.4 Either you just suck at a lot of things, or you haven't even given most of those things a shot yet. So unless you want to live the rest of your life like you're stuck in a box, it's time to try some new things...and get better at the things you're already trying. The closer you are to 1, the less well-rounded you are. Oh, and if your score was somehow lower than 1, your math sucks too, because that's impossible.

Average 2.5 - 3.9 Your average says that you're, well...you're average. You're a regular Joe. And some people are happy with halfway. But life has a lot more to offer you if you go that next step and embrace all those areas where you just "don't get it." Worlds will open up to you, as well as new relationships (both business and personal) that were previously out of your grasp.

Average 4.0 - 5.0 I'm impressed. The closer you are to 5, the more well-rounded you are. If your average score is anywhere in this range, you're practically a modern-day Renaissance man (or woman). Now all you have to do is put all that ability to use. And not all at the same time, because you don't want to spread yourself thin (though you probably already are). But really, what *are* you doing with your many skills, talents, and gifts? Is it working?

* * *

GAY BOMB

Hold up. Let me start this off with a disclaimer. I sincerely don't think gay people are twisted or sick. I know plenty of gay dudes and lesbians who are a *lot* more mature and responsible than many of the "no homo" advocates I know. So let me be clear: I'm not against gay *people*. I *am* against the *proliferation* of homosexuality.

* * *

The Chemicals

I told you it gets deeper. You may still believe that what's happening is all a product of nature. If only our world was so innocent. Did you know that there are chemicals that can affect your hormones and

sexuality? How about if I told you that you were probably exposed to at least one of them today?

You know those little Hugs? The 25 cent drinks that every corner store sells in the hood? Guess what? They reduce sperm count. There's more. The plastic in those bottles, as well as many other cheaply-made bottles contains a chemical that ends up in our system. These chemicals, called phthalates, can activate the same receptors in the body as the female hormone estrogen. Gender-bending phthalates are found in many plastics, including cheap children's toys, Saran Wrap and PVC pipes, and can seep into food and water. Phthalates, which also contribute to asthma and cancer, can even be found in the milk we feed our babies. Guess where you find the most? In a recent study of 246 Black and Hispanic pregnant women, phthalates were present in 85-100% of the samples.

Another chemical is even more common. Bisphenol A (BPA) is an endocrine disruptor and hormone-mimicking agent found in hard plastic. Biologist Frederick vom Saal's research suggests that BPA can lead to ADHD, prostate cancer, decreased sperm count, sex-hormone imbalances, and "behavior changes." Hmm. How does it get into our systems? Easy. You just have to be born into the type of family that reheats plastic baby bottles or other plastic containers. So guess what? Over 90% of people in the inner city are born with traces of BPA in their systems.

And there's more. In fact, a scientist named Theo Colborn has been building a large database of chemicals she believes are "hijacking" our hormone systems. These chemicals don't just damage men's fertility – even increasing the risk of testicular cancer – they change our sexuality. While they increase femininity in males, they push young girls to reach puberty earlier. Not only that, but these chemicals are on the increase.

There are other chemicals, known as NPEs, which are found in cosmetic products. Usually they are in those fruity-ass shampoos and hair products some of you pretty boys wear. Those NPEs are also endocrine disruptors, and they have been shown to change the sex of fish in affected water. It also increases estrogen, and has been shown to cause the growth of breasts in boys. According to an article in *New Scientist Magazine*, "Slight anatomical oddities in infant boys are being heralded as the first evidence that gender-bending chemicals are affecting humans."

There are other chemicals in the food we eat. We now use about 10 lbs. of pesticides per year for every man, woman and child in the U.S. Many of these chemicals are affecting us to the point where we are in danger of not being able to reproduce within 50 years. Many cheaply produced foods average over 10 different pesticides in one sample. Depending on where you live, there are even herbicides and insecticides in your glass of water. These chemicals are not removed by water treatment such as chlorination. Endocrine interrupting pesticides can alter the sex of a child during the first 6 weeks of pregnancy, and in some cases, cause a person to have traits of the opposite sex.

Phthalates. BPA. NPEs. And dozens of others. And studies show that poor communities, especially Black and Hispanic ones, get most of this sh*t sent *straight* to them. That sh*t is in you *right now*. And if you have a child, your child has 20 times more in their system than you do. What does that tell you? Do you still think it's *all* natural?

While we're debating who's f*cking who, there's a war being waged on us...and we have no idea. But some of y'all are gonna be so busy trying to attack *me* for sharing this, that you'll miss my actual point. You'll think *I'm* the f*cking enemy. And that's why *they* keep winning. We'll be fighting each other instead of fighting the people f*cking us *both* over (no pun intended).

If you're *still* not convinced that there's something going on...and think none of this is on purpose...or that what I'm saying is the problem, I've got one last piece of proof to share. What do you know about the "Gay Bomb" the U.S. was going to drop on Iraq?

Pentagon officials on Friday confirmed to CBS 5 that military leaders had considered, and then subsequently rejected, building the so-called "Gay Bomb." Edward Hammond, of Berkeley's Sunshine Project, had used the Freedom of Information Act to obtain a copy of the proposal from the Air Force's Wright Laboratory in Dayton, Ohio...The documents show the Air Force lab asked for \$7.5 million to develop such a chemical weapon. **"The Ohio Air Force lab proposed that a bomb be developed that contained a chemical that would cause enemy soldiers to become gay, and to have their units break down because all their soldiers became irresistibly attractive to one another,"** Hammond said after reviewing the documents.

Now tell me I'm making this sh*t up.

* * *

WE DON'T DANCE NO MO'

West Africans have a very strong and rich dance culture. In fact, most of the dances we do today can be traced back to African traditions. Just visit any African dance performance and see for yourself. But over 400 years ago, white people were able to twist parts of Black culture into bullsh*t that would help keep us down, or brainwash us into forgetting the parts of Black culture that couldn't be twisted. So singing and dancing – once the favorite part of African ceremonies – became a tool that was used against us. Many Blacks were tricked into slavery by being asked to dance on European ships docked off the coast of Africa. The Europeans would even promise pay, but as soon as the Blacks boarded, the ships would pull off.

Once on the slave ships, most slaves would be forced to dance for exercise and the crew's entertainment. One doctor on a slave ship reported that every day, "those who were in irons were ordered to stand up and make what motions they could, leaving a passage for [the slaves who were] out of irons to dance around the deck." Many danced on deck just to enjoy the brief freedom of being out of irons. The others who refused to dance were whipped until they got with the program.

And here we are today. Now tell me what's on BET. Same sh*t, huh?

"Though our hands are chained like they are, they haven't taken music from us yet.
So that's how I'll fight. People tell me don't quit like everyone else. I won't have no fear."
Tupac Shakur

What's my point? Here's a riddle: What's the difference between a regular party and a political party? A regular party might get some bills paid. A political party changes the bills. I'm not knockin our love affair with music and dancing, but we can't lose sight of the bigger picture. The same way that our music helped us get free in Stono, it helped enslave us as well. Even today, our music sometimes pushes us in the right directions, but more often it pushes us towards bullsh*t.

"After the fast songs come the slow/ After the sad songs come some mo"
Saigon, "I Believe It"

A lot of us escape into music and partying the way some of us escape into liquor and drugs. That's what rapper Saigon told XXL:

After the partying and bullsh*tin that people do in the clubs, they sober up and realize they still have these problems they tried to escape by doin drugs and drinkin to escape reality. That's all the clubs offer, is an escape from reality. Even ugly girls feel pretty around drunk, horny niggas.

He's right. Like the slaves on the boats, we're just trying to enjoy brief moments of feeling free. But tearin up 500 clubs won't get us free anytime soon. So I'm a fan of a different kind of party, and a different kind of music. If you're gonna make music, make fight music. Make rebel music. Make a change.

See, activism takes your energy and frustration and aims it...directly against your opponent. Regular-ass partying just takes all that energy and frustration and aims for nothing. And at the end of the night, we get back in our cars and return to being slaves.

There's nothing wrong with getting out your frustration. But true power is in directing your frustration back at the system of oppression that caused it. So you can live your life "Pajama Party" or "Black Panther Party." What's it gonna be?

You gonna fight or dance? Or can you conceal your fight *in* the dance?

**Unless you're putting in more work than play,
you don't have time to party every day.**

* * *

SUPREME THE ASSHOLE ON "OUT OF TOUCH" FOLKS

Over the past few months, I've read three recently-published self-empowerment books by prominent Black authors, and they all sucked. Every single one of them has said something like, "Most importantly [preachy voice], we've got to stop saying 'the white man is holding me down.' Blah blah blah." Are they for real? Who the f*ck still says that? Have they been to the hood lately? Nobody's talked like that since the 90s. Maybe I missed the memo, but most people nowadays are so brainwashed that they don't even know the white man is *involved* in their misery! So maybe they're all out of touch. Middle-class motherf*ckers who have no idea of the current conditions of people in poverty...and people in poverty who have no awareness of the politics that create their conditions. Makes me want to assign partners like we're in school or something. At least the poor folks can blame ignorance. What's the excuse for a Harvard-educated clown who thinks white supremacy isn't still alive and well? What about you? Are *you* out of touch?

* * *

F*CK DR. KING

Now I don't mean that literally. The *real* Dr. King was a good dude. But the Dr. King we learn about in school is a myth like Santa Claus. So f*ck the bullsh*t idea they *gave* us. Let's talk about what really happened.

While Dr. King is given most of the credit for the gains made by the Civil Rights Movement, it is important that we look seriously at OTHER factors that were in play at that time. After Black soldiers

returned from the Korean War, many Black communities were galvanized to begin resisting oppression. As a matter of fact, several armed resistance groups sprang up between the 50's and 60's. One of the most notable early groups was that of Robert F. Williams in North Carolina (see "Negroes with Guns"). At the same time, the international community was becoming increasingly aware of America's injustices. Several other nations were identifying with the struggles of Blacks in America. As a matter of fact, as early as World War II, Japan was promising to be the savior of the dark races of the world, and was sending representatives to align forces with the Nation of Islam! (see "Global Black Revolution")

We don't read about this in history class do we? That's why there's people like me. Where were we? Oh yeah, the world was on the verge of rebellion against the wicked oppressor that is America. Meanwhile, America was in serious danger of an *internal* racial uprising. The book (and movie) *The Spook who Sat by the Door* was not all fiction, you know.

To avoid being overwhelmed by increasing international pressure, or being deluged by the increasing violence at home, America needed to appease the easily lulled masses. After all, that's how it works with "the masses." As my brother Kwami K. Kwami points out in *The Tables Have Turned: A Street Guide to Guerrilla Warfare*.

There is yet another reason to consider myself a guerrilla. I do not consider myself as a member of that body of people that calls itself "the general public." A federal court in the case, *J.W. Collins v. F.M. Paist Co.* (DC Pa) 14 F2d 614, has defined "the general public" as "that vast multitude, which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, who, in making a purchase, do not stop to analyze, but are governed by general appearance and general impression."

So since the government knows that the majority of us will fall for anything, what did they give us? Civil Rights. Not *revolution*, but the *revision* of a few laws. How did they sell it to us? By promoting, through the media, a single leader who became *their* posterboy because of his stance on nonviolence and passivity, while others were calling for total uprising. Worse yet, Derrick Bell, author of *Faces at the Bottom of the Well* has said that Civil Rights for Blacks wasn't exactly what we thought, and was actually intended to benefit WHITES more than Blacks.

To be fair, Dr. King made as many gains as he could, but he didn't exactly win the fight, remember? He was given what the government

felt like giving us to *appease us*. Dr. King was actually killed as soon as he started asking for bigger changes. More on that in a minute.

Over forty years later, we see the results of these “changes.” Voting rights? Yeah right! Forget whether you believe in this country’s election scam – I mean process. Did you know you voting rights still have to be voted on and renewed every few years? What does that *tell* you? School integration? Well, it wasn’t until *then* that Black students began doing worse than their white peers, BECAUSE of these changes. (see “Integration was a Lie”) And our schools are *still* segregated, except now we’re not teaching our own people our own curriculum. Integrated communities, workplaces, and businesses? All the discriminatory practices are still here, except now they are covert (hidden). At least when they were out in the open, we had to stick together and fight. Now what the hell are we fighting? Besides ourselves? And let’s not forget that the 60s is when all the jobs started disappearing from the Black communities. You know what happened next. The breakdown of the Black family. Before the jobs started disappearing, more than 3/4ths of Black families had working fathers. Now that number of two-parent households is down to less than half. Why? ‘Cause they said, “Okay you can work equally now” and then they took away all our daddies’ jobs!

But somehow we now believe we’re equal participants in this American Dream. We’ve really just been rocked back to sleep.

“The most odious of all oppressions are those which mask as justice.”
Robert H. Jackson (1892-1854)

After Dr. King met with the Honorable Elijah Muhammad at his house and agreed that whites were of the same accord and weren’t going to change, the government (who’d been listening in) began fearing that their posterboy wanted more than they were ready to offer. Dr. King began fighting for workers’ rights, struggling for the poor, and rallying around causes that could have torn the very exploitative fabric of America to shreds. You see, this “American Dream” is built on oppression and exploitation. That’s how it began, and that’s how it will always be. To believe otherwise is to either believe in fairy tales, miracles, or *revolution*.

At any rate, when Dr. King began challenging the status quo of America, galvanizing poor people, Black and white, to buck the system, it was undermining some of the fundamental principles America is based on (exploiting the poor, poor people being voiceless

and easily appeased, etc.). Well, of course, we know what happened then.

And let's be real. This country didn't like Dr. King until he was dead. Once dead, his ideas and image could be exploited like a modern-day Jesus, designed to fit the ideology that they would like us to have. Half of the ideas we associate now with Dr. King didn't even come from him. Try this simple True or False quiz and see how much you know:

1	T F	King opposed the Supreme Court's ban on school prayer
2	T F	King supported reparations, hoping if Blacks received them, poor whites would realize the real enemy was rich whites
3	T F	He believed that no one should use violence against another, even in self-defense
4	T F	He supported preferential hiring and race-based quotas so more Blacks could get jobs
5	T F	He wanted to be the head of the Civil Rights movement, and voluntarily stepped up to the plate
6	T F	He praised the militancy engulfing the Black community, warning that there'd be no peace until things changed
7	T F	He believed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were meaningless for Blacks because they were written by slaveowners
8	T F	He thought Christian myths and doctrines were historically and logically unrealistic, and saw the ministry as a way to position his ideas on social protest
9	T F	He said America was the greatest nation in the world, a nation "born in the ideals of freedom, justice and equality"
10	T F	He said America was the greatest force of violence in the world, a nation "born in genocide"

You picked your answers yet? Don't cheat. Dr. King wouldn't do that. Or would he? Here goes: All the odd statements are false, and all the even ones are true. Don't believe me? Just look it up. Now, who do you think our false ideas came from? Dr. King's dream was not about whites and Blacks going to the same churches, people. His true dream, like many other leaders at that time (most of who were similarly assassinated) was revolution. So let's stop celebrating messiahs long gone, and let's live to fulfill their visions.

* * *

IS THIS BOOK FOR YOU?

Here's how you can tell if you need this book. If you care about the answers to these questions, this book is for you.

Do you know...

- Why so many of us are hopeless, and what we can do about it?
- How a 300-year-old plan is still being used against us?
- How African martial arts made it to American prisons?
- How certain common chemicals can affect our sexuality?
- The 18 words we use that keep us down?
- The true meanings behind American holidays?
- The 10 reasons we can't seem to come up?
- How slaves used music as a tool for liberation?
- The truth about the industry that Pimp C almost told?
- Which rappers and celebrities are being targeted for their activism?
- How Malcolm X escaped from prison?
- Which Indians almost stopped the European settlers?
- How to manage money properly and build wealth?
- Which factors are holding you back from greatness?
- Why so much of what we've learned about Dr. King is untrue?
- The 13 ways we unconsciously destroy ourselves?
- What the AK-47 can teach us about perseverance?
- Why and how Bob Marley went to war?
- The essentials of building healthy relationships?
- What all immigrants leave behind?
- What Blacks and Hispanics have in common (and it's not chicken)?
- Why Europeans sent priests into Africa first?
- Why men ain't men anymore, and what can be done about it?
- How to activate the untapped power of your mind?
- The 120 behaviors necessary for a successful life?
- How to transform the negatives around you for success?

*** * ***

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