The Hiphop Driven Life ™

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Acknowledgements

This book was not written by us. It was written through us. Please do not focus too much on Nightjohn or even the written pages of our books. We are merely messengers. We write to take you much higher. First of all, we must thank our Most High Creator God, Allah, Jah, Ra, Elohim, Oladumare (Olorun), our ancestors, and our elders. In the Spirit of the ancients, we have come to know ourselves. The emissaries Elegba, Obatala, Ogun, Oshun, Oya, Shango, and Yemoja are always with us. In these pages, they have simply changed form to bring you the meaning of life…according to Hiphop. The King's English is a very lame, boring, and restricting conduit to release these emissaries, but our ability is matched by the soul stirring whispers of Divine wisdom. It's like this, we got street language: Hiphop slang, Ebonics, Gullah, and patois to help us.

In writing this book, we stand on the shoulders of all Self-educated giants. We have learned from Tony Robbins' visionary approach to raising ones standards for a better quality life, Les Brown's Self-discipline, KRS-One's Self-awareness and commitment to uniting Hiphoppas, to form our International Kulture of Peace and Prosperity. Kwame Toure's organization, The Last Poets Self-analysis, Five-Percenters Self-empowerment, Africa Bambaataa's peace, love, unity, and havin' fun, Queen Latifah's Self-respect, Chuck D's political empowerment and leadership. Bill Gates money is inspiring, but even more inspiring is his curiosity. We are deeply indebted to the teachings of Bruce Lee, Bob Marley, Tupac, Notorious B.I.G, Malcolm X, Mother Theresa, and Gandhi. We measure our success by Martin Luther King's definition of greatness: serving others. Grace Llewellyn's Teenage. Liberation. Handbook is a cornerstone to our philosophy. Without her commitment and resolve, we would not have as much conviction about sharing our Self-education secrets to freeing the minds of the young and oppressed. Thanks to Captain Bob Webb of www.Motivation-Tools.com, for having a story that is priceless in proving every single naysayer of Self-education wrong.

We give thanks to all emcees that kick the Truth to the young black youth. We appreciate Nas for his educational insights on his song "One Love": "fuck a school lecture, the lies get me 'vexed-er.'" If there were not wise leaders, or street's disciples for us to follow, we would have never come this far with our unique discoveries. We are grateful for intellectuals like Howard Gardner who enlightened the masses about the theory of multiple intelligences. We also benefited from all renaissance thinkers, especially Leonardo Da Vinci, and Michael J. Gelb for writing books on how to even come close to living such a daily life. Peace to Joseph "Rahz" Harmon, an Attuned Hiphop Renaissance man whose drive to master Self sparked a chain reaction that he never even dreamed of. We did it man, we shine like fluorescent Neon over these dark evil elitists! Special thanks to Melvin Lee Jacobs a.ka. Lee Majors of Cluck U Chicken, who conquered the University of Maryland on foot. If Tupac were here, God rest his soul, he'd be proud of you. We're also thankful for all the successful actors, entrepreneurs, artists, musicians, and professionals who dropped out of school, dropped out of college, or escaped the clutches of homelessness to move on to bigger and better

achievements in life. To all the people who have never given up on your dreams: You are our heroes. God bless the child who can hold his own. We is Nightjohn, we gon' hold our own.

We are grateful for every dingbat legislator and leader responsible for fumbling education in America, drugging kids, depriving inner city youth of opportunity, and preventing youth from exploring music and art in peace. If it wasn't for their darkness, our light wouldn't shine so brilliantly. If it wasn't for the millions of people in agony, who we have been brought to heal, what would our Divine Purpose be as Nightjohn? We appreciate the innocent, overworked, underpaid, well-meaning teachers and professors for hanging in there. It's too bad that you must struggle within an educational system that needs such obvious reform. We thank our parents, family members, and friends for the obstacles presented by your narrow thinking…. Although we had to put up a hell of a fight to unschool you. Oh yeah….to my eighth grade band teacher from Chapman Middle School in Huntsville, AL who never let me play the drums the way I wanted to…Nah…It's not even worth the ink or paper….I forgive you for your racism….your progeny will curl up at home with our book anyway….for ever and ever….the world is ours!

Special thanks to the streets, especially
our first sponsors who helped us print short runs
and sell 150+ copies "out the back of our trunk"

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For: *Aunt Leatrice in Gary, IN and all my family affiliated with you. My cousin Rob Haukins, your son, and all your cousins. My Moms and my sister Krystal Powell. My father Kale, keep ya head up. To B.O.S. (Brothers Of Struggle). To God.*

~Arnett~

For: *all the children in my family in the United States, Nigeria, and the Republic of Benin, one day we'll laugh, play, and walk together for the first time, all the children with Hiphop parents. KRS' children, Nas' daughter Destiny, Lee Major's daughter Diamond; Claudia Calleros' son Andre J. Brown; all the other youth who were born and will be born in Hiphop families, to numerous to mention but will always carry on our Light. To all the other seeds coming up in my community of friends and family: Celine, Olivia, Alexis, Bianca, Jahrael, K.J., Isaiah, Calique, Larkin III, Sydney, Kyla, Felicia, Walter, Jesse, and Daniel you are the future. Each and every child in the P.J.'s of inner cities across America and in the impoverished ghettos, barrios, and streets all over the world, Remember Hiphop's H-LAW: Health, Love, Awareness, and Wealth. You will have all these fruits and more if you discipline your Self. For all the young children who I have met on my enlightened successful journey; and all the young men and women of the Hiphop generation who are in the prime of life right now, playing this game, while searching for Divine Purpose in the 21st Century. Ain't nothing gonna to stop us. Hiphop's Divine geniuses are creating the new America. Let's follow through and make our vision a reality!*

~Adebayo~

For: *All Afrikan owned bookstores in D.C/MD Including but not limited to Bro. Tehuti of House of Kamit, Bro. Haile of Sankofa, Blue Nile Botanicals, All Eyes On Egypt, and Karibu Books. Also, Kim Washington and Joe Gorham of WHUR 96.3 FM Radio*

"NIGHTJOHN"

The Hiphop Declaration of Peace

11 th Principle

"The Hiphop Community Exists as an international culture of consciousness that provides all races, tribes, religions, and styles of people, a foundation for the communication of their best ideas and works. Hiphop Kulture is united as one multi-skilled, multi-cultural, multi-faith, multi-racial people, committed to the establishment and the development of peace."

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“Words are freedom, old man. 'Cause that's all that slavery's made of: words. Laws, deeds, passes: all they are is words. White folks got all the words, and they mean to keep them. You get some words for yourself and you be free.”

—the character Nightjohn,
In the novel Nightjohn **by Gary Paulsen**

Disciple

\Dis*ci"ple\, n. [OE. disciple, deciple, OF. disciple, fr. L. discipulus, fr. discere to learn (akin to docere to teach; see Docile) + prob. a root meaning to turn or **drive**, as in L. pellere to **drive** (see Pulse).] **One who receives instruction from another; a scholar; a learner; especially, a follower who has learned to believe in the Truth of the doctrine of his teacher; an adherent in doctrine; as, the disciples of Plato; the disciples of our Savior.** 46-:
Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996,1998 MICRA, Inc.

Discipline

\Dis`ci*pline\, n. [F. discipline, L. disciplina, from discipulus. See Disciple.] **1. The treatment suited to a disciple or learner; education; development of the faculties by instruction and exercise; training, whether physical, mental, or moral.**

2. Training to act in accordance with established rules; accustoming to systematic and regular action; drill.
Their wildness lose, and, quitting nature's part, Obey the rules and discipline of art. --Dryden.
3. Subjection to rule; submissiveness to order and control; habit of obedience.
The most perfect, who have their passions in the best discipline, are yet obliged to be constantly on their guard. --Rogers.
4. Severe training, corrective of faults; instruction by means of misfortune, suffering, punishment, etc.
A sharp discipline of half a century had sufficed to educates. --Macaulay.
5. Correction; chastisement; punishment inflicted by way of correction and training.
Giving her the discipline of the strap. --Addison.
6. The subject matter of instruction; a branch of knowledge. --Bp. Wilkins.
7. (Eccl.) The enforcement of methods of correction against one guilty of ecclesiastical offenses; reformatory or penal action toward a church member.
8. (R. C. Ch.) Self-inflicted and voluntary corporal punishment, as penance, or otherwise; specifically, a penitential scourge.
9. (Eccl.) A system of essential rules and duties; as, the Romish or Anglican discipline.

Syn: Education; instruction; training; culture; correction; chastisement; punishment.
463: *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.*

Preface

A Quiet Storm Brewing In America

"Sou disipulo que aprende, Sou mestre que dá lição."
(I am a disciple that learns, I am a mestre that teaches.)

What's your definition of an almost perfect life? What does your lifestyle represent? Are you where you want to be in your life? Are you living where you want to live? Are you around the people you want to be around? Are you happy? Do you have peace, fulfillment, and satisfaction with how you spend your days? Do you get a sense of joy when you wake up in the morning? Do you feel gratitude and pure bliss as you think about what you are going to do for the day, the week, the month and the year? Who are you? What do you stand for? What is the meaning of your life? Do you care enough about life to find out what drives you as a human being? Are you willing to make YOU a better YOU?

If you live like anyone on T.V.; you are totally accepted by your social circles; you make straight A's; have two married parents who love you unconditionally, brothers and sisters you never argue with; have a strong physically fit body with the ideal boyfriend or girlfriend, husband or wife of your dreams; you graduate school or high salary job offers pouring into your mailbox, your dream job; wear the best clothes, drive the best cars, and live in perfect homes, and have all the material possessions your heart desires….you're done. Maybe you no longer need Self improvement, or you're too far lost to get the message of this book. If we just described you, gently ….**PUT THIS BOOK DOWN NOW….AND RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN, OR HIPHOP WILL THOROGUHLY PENETRATE YOUR SOUL. YOU CAN EITHER GO BACK INTO YOUR DREAM WORLD OF SOCIETY'S MADE UP REALITY…OR YOU CAN FACE THE FACTS OF R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. (Rhymes Equal Actual Life In The Youth) AND BECOME THE PERSON YOU ARE DESTINED TO BE….THE CHOICE IS YOURS….**If you're like all the rest of us and you still don't fit in, haven't paid all your bills in full, and still cannot get it together: **READ ON…**

You will never think the same after reading this book. This book is about Self-discovery and Self-mastery from the unique world view of Attuned Hiphoppas and Kultural Specialists. These words ain't all written in King's English for the intellectuals who wanna criticize Hiphop (people who may never step on the playing field of a passionate Hiphop style of life). This book is for thinkers and doers. This book is about the heart and soul of Hiphop. University professors must study US. This book is not for the lifeless normal people on T.V. who choose to fit in to the cookie cutter images of what an American is, or should be. Nonetheless, if your life is just the way YOU want it, fine. If your life is just the way others want it…that may not be so fine. Even if your success is Self-defined, this book can add to your already fulfilled, happy existence. In addition, this book is for conscious men and women born in the United States, immigrants, tha undaground, thoroughbred thugs, attuned Hiphoppas, intelligent gangstas, gangbangers, drug dealers, stick up kids, thieves, con artists, pimps, runaways, prostitutes, high school dropouts, college rejects, college dropouts, homeless, the unemployed, incarcerated people, so called ugly people, overweight people, teenage mothers, entrepreneurs in debt, third world citizens, and all people suffering from symptoms of the mental disease called poverty…oh yeah, and anyone courageous enough to pick this book up and read it.

This book was finished right around the time of another election year in the United States. We finished this masterpiece, in December of 2004. George W. Bush was elected to continue his reign in the White House. Who cares!? People who have no

clue about the essence of being an American are the only ones who care! Lost souls are worried. People with Purpose are living life as usual. The people who don't care are people like US and people like YOU, who overstand the essence of our constitutional rights. WE are determined to live a life of fulfillment in spite of the obstacles that are placed in our path daily by inadequate leadership and authority within the United States of America. Don't get it twisted, if we did vote, it would have been a vote for the lesser of two evils….for now. In the meanwhile, we will do whatever it takes to fulfill our Purposes as valuable human beings on this Earth, despite constant violations of our human rights. We are not numbers. We are not statistics. We are not demographics. We are not a category. We are not a race. We don't want a piece of the devil's pie. We want to take the whole pie back for ourselves, remake the recipe, bake a million Goddess pies, and sell the recipe wholesale to the world at a substantial discount. We might be considered an adversary to a cold blooded elitist financier. We are America's worst nightmare squared: **We are H**iphop.

"Don't be no follower, man, 'cause you'll go down fast…Yo, man, you gotta do things for yourself. Think for yourself. Know right from wrong. 'Cause that's what I had to do. I had to learn right from wrong.

--Raekwon "The Chef" of Wu-Tang Clan

America is a land of diversity. Out of many diverse cultures, religions, philosophies, beliefs, and people; one enlightened reasonable Truth emerges. When we follow justice and Universal principles, the people can use a system of democracy to vote for its leadership. Our leadership should reflect all of America's diverse peoples, lending way to all those who are civilized, law abiding, and free thinking to live in peace, love, and happiness. Why has our nation placed more value on individuals who can generate the largest sum of money within the shortest time as a measure of success? Would the United States of America have ever been established if the founding fathers and early settlers were only looking to fulfill a desire for fast pleasure and instant gratification? Whatever happened to frugality? Is unity an impossible dream? When will America be a true democracy? When will the totalitarian regime or oligarchy end? When will Americans correct the past ills of a nation slowly destroying itself? When will knowledgeable free thinkers and visionaries be the majority in America instead of the minority? How long will the masses be blinded by manipulation, mind control, and tricknology? How can we as citizens of such a potentially great nation individually and collectively discover our Divine Purpose? How do we deal with continual leadership on a city, state, and national level that is full of scandal, corruption, greed, money laundering, and power overindulgence? How can we discover our Divine Purpose, despite all the obstacles set up by evil forces in high places; forces that seem to prevent us from doing so? The answer is simple but not easy…**The Hi**phop Driven Life.

Sometimes life can seem just plain unfair. Many of us (men and women) have used the phrase "life's a bitch" at one time or another…Is life really a bitch….or is she a Goddess? Is it possible we're just mad she hasn't given us what she has to offer.

As Tupac Shakur (R.I.P.) Stated:

"And since we all came from a woman
Got our name from a woman and our game from a woman
I wonder why we take from our women
Why we rape our women, do we hate our women?
I think it's time to kill for our women
Time to heal our women, be real to our women
And if we don't we'll have a race of babies
That will hate the ladies, that make the babies
And since a man can't make one
He has no right to tell a woman when and where to create one
So will the real men get up
I know you're fed up ladies, but keep your head up"

We can't hate the essence that made us. It does us no good to be miserable and complain about hardships in life. We have no right to tell life we deserve to be healthy, wealthy, in love, intelligent, and famous…just because we say so. We only have the right to earn these blessings through intelligent work and commitment. We should not hate the imperfections and pains of life, no more than we should hate a beautiful woman that isn't attracted to us (right fellas?). It's our responsibility to ask life what she needs, so she gives us what we need in return. Men cannot just take sex from a woman without consent. That is called rape. Likewise, we cannot take from life what we want, without giving something to enhance life on earth or influence human progress. It is our duty to respect and create foreplay with the Universal Goddess so she loves us forever and fulfills our every

wish and desire. Soul searching is your foreplay for prosperity. Life's not a bitch when she's giving you what you want, she's a Goddess that's in love with you!! Live fully for your Divine Purpose and change the world for the better! Everybody wants to experience life to the fullest. In America, there is so much opportunity, but also so much chaos. How do we choose our direction in life? What are we committed to at the deepest level? Is public school doing anything for us? What is going to make us happy? How do we get the passion, excitement, and drive to wake up every morning and live a life of joy and fulfillment.

There's one key: **Divine Pu**rpose, our reason for living. The reason our Creator gave us life. When we do something on Purpose, we do it with a heightened level of intelligence and awareness. People who live on Purpose in civilizations create a higher social, cultural, and political way of life. Anything we do on Purpose obviously has meaning behind it. The things we don't do on Purpose are mistakes, and often lead to regret. If we want to do things on Purpose, we must clearly identify our Purpose. Unfortunately, this is not a subject that is taught in school or in college. There are no classes in elementary, middle, and high schools called Purpose 101. Maybe there should be classes like this right along side Imperialism, Patriarchy, Personal Finance, World Religion, Sexual Morality, Cult studies, Prosperity Thinking, Masonic Secrets, Metaphysics, and Egyptian history. If not, maybe Purpose should be discovered outside of school through home schooling, unschooling or Self-education.

So many young people from the ages of 12 – 25 get caught up and lose themselves in the whirlwind of American popular culture. School is no exception to this chaos. If you are within this age range, you may feel torn sometimes between doing things you want to do and doing things you feel you have to do. You may feel like there is always pressure to compromise your standards. It may even feel like you are living a double life with a split personality, having to be one way at one time and one way at another time. There is hope. There is away to discover your Divine Purpose. My cousin A.K. (more like brother) and I have spent the last four years researching ways to help people our age discover Divine Purpose. Our Purposeful journey started when I was 20 and he was only 14. Me being 24 now and he being 18, we have both dealt with all the dramas, setbacks, confusion, and euphoria of finding Purposeful direction in life. We've had enough experience to help the average person choose his or her life path. We have learned from many great intellectuals and teachers of all time, and studied mass amounts of information on Divine Purpose and how an individual goes about finding Divine Purpose.

We now refer to our brotherhood and our rap group as "Nightjohn." We chose the name Nightjohn because we overstand the importance of various forms of African and Hiphop, awareness, literacy, and education. The fictional character Nightjohn in Gary Paulsen's novel is the ultimate symbol of heroism, honor, and courage. These are traits that we work on daily to express as human beings, men, and emcees. Not only does the character Nightjohn know how to read; he escaped to freedom in the North and willingly returned to the South. He had to go back into slavery as an undercover slave to teach other Africans in bondage, particularly a character named Sarny to read. This is a trait which makes Nightjohn's character superhuman. This is a trait which makes our Purposeful dedication to touching other people's lives superhuman. We don't have to expose our stories to the public, attract media attention, and play the music industry game. However, we will, if it is the only way to get our message across. Controversy sells too you know! Sometimes controversy, or better yet curiosity is the essence needed to reveal the Truth.

We know that one must be Self-educated to begin living a free, happy, autonomous, and prosperous life. We have taken the responsibility to educate our selves and have benefited from the process of unlearning mis-education previously forced upon us. We re-created ourselves in our own image. As Emcees, we realize that we have a responsibility to share our knowledge in abundance, so we have a variety of Self-created media to get our message out to the people (i.e. The Hiphop Driven Life Soundtrack Album). We are fully aware of the fact that there are other Hiphoppas who think exactly like us, who do not get exposure in mainstream media outlets. We put our selves in the spotlight, only as a voice for the voiceless. We shine for YOU. Thank you for allowing us to communicate to you through the pages of this book. Our objectives are to help people correctly re-evaluate other human beings, environments, communities, societies, and ultimately the entire world.

We some times flip on tell-lie vision, often wondering if entering into such an industry as volatile as American music, media, and film should be part of our Destiny. We see many of our people our age bound and gagged by contracts, draped in clown suits, forced by executives to promote images of thugs, pimps, whores, and gangstas destroying ourselves. They are promoting images that kill the imagination of all our people worldwide through pre-packaged raps of overindulged sex, violence, and ignorance. Although we overstand the cause of the gangsta emcee and even pay tribute to the creators of the True gangsta rap, we think that this particular form of rap is being exploited by evil forces to the detriment of our people. We know the word of the streets must be told. We think there must be a point in time where solutions should start coming out of the mouths of music industry's so-called gangstas. We love our brothas and sistas dearly, and we are willing to stop at nothing to save them from the shackles of "massa." We are aware that we can be severely put under scrutiny and destroyed by financially powerful recording company slave masters for our attempts to free the minds of Hiphop artists. Isn't life exciting!

Our people are yearning for optimum skillz through large waves of conscious awareness. We take such risks with dignity. Most executives fear an undaground planet. Fuck pink shirts, icy earrings, jerseys, and colorful rainbow hats. Fuck being a super pimp. We're busy figuring out how to fulfill our dream of Divine Purpose, freedom, and prosperity. Fuck hating on B.E.T. and M.T.V. We want them to put us up on their show right next to our stolen brethren. If we even do anything in the industry, we gonna do it the Nightjohn way. We gonna 'cause a rapper revolt so earth shattering that *massa* won't be able to sleep. He'll be in

a cold sweat searching for his briefcase full of exclusive recording contracts to exploit someone less informed. Guess what though….you can't have slavery, when all the so called slaves have followed the North Star to live a Hiphop Driven Life.

We have learned that we may be close to freeing our own minds, but we still have an obligation to help free the minds of others with similar struggles. In other words, we like to have fun, party, pursue our dreams, and expect the good material things in life; but it ain't all about money, cash, and hoes. Success for us is meaningless if we have a top spot on the charts, our songs are on the radio, or if our people are still in mental bondage. We must make an effort to inspire, influence, and give hope for a better and brighter lifestyle.

While we never fool ourselves into thinking we have arrived completely, we can say that we have remained intact Against All Odds and statistics that predict young men our age will fall into a life of despair, death, or incarceration. While our experiences are limited to our own perception, we know that our discoveries will help others in the International Hiphop Community and movement who have dreams, visions, goals, and life plans as they move along on their journey.

The principles in this book are simply long time-tested Truths that have been embedded in human consciousness since the beginning of time. We have only re-fined (re-find) them through the Spirit of Hiphop and uncovered them in our own unique process, a process that many of you can relate to as members of the Hiphop generation. We have learned to come of age in this information/entertainment era in the United States. Because of the unique Hiphop within us, we have the flava, style, and originality to provide a synthesis that will help your soul expand infinitely. Everybody can relate to the ideas in this book. It doesn't matter whether you grew up in the inner city, the suburbs, small towns, the country, or an island for that matter.

We know that discovering Divine Purpose is a deep and profound experience which happens in a person's mind and soul regardless of where he or she is located. Fear not. There is a reason for your life. You are here to do something in the world that only YOU can do. It is your responsibility to find out what it is that YOU want out of life, and share it with the world.

No high grades, secured job status, money, power, respect, prestige, cars, women, clothes, or jewelry will replace a feeling of deep Purpose. What exactly do you really want? Do you want fame? Do you want money? Do you want to be respected? Do you want a place of significance in the world? There is nothing wrong with such desires. In fact, the word desire has a root De – Sire, which means "Of the Father." Your Creator has given you the desire to live life the way you want to live it. Your parents, crew, gang, girlfriend or boyfriend, school, college, job, or profession will not tell you your Purpose. Only you can tell your Self your Purpose.

If you feel that you know your Purpose, you may want to look deeper and really make sure that you are truly pursuing the things in life that matter most to you. It's difficult to go all the way through life listening to everybody else's needs and wants. If you are successful according to society's standards, but you do not feel successful and happy about the life YOU are living currently, then YOU may not be truly successful. Part of discovering Purpose is making a claim to the world like: **"I make my own definitions for success!" or "Nicca, I did it my way!"** No one can tell you what it means to be successful. Videos, radio, magazines, and other people cannot define your success for you. It is easy to be successful by everybody else's standards. It is a bit more difficult to identify your own standards and be successful by your own definition for the Right Purpose.

We want to breathe a breath of fresh air into your life, allowing you to feel more confident about making things happen for your Self. As you expand into the world and grow into a powerful man or woman, you will be faced with challenges, decisions, dilemmas, uncertainty, pain, hardship and even disaster. These are the things in life that you cannot control. What you can control are what these situations mean to you.

Is your mind prepared for some of the real life challenges that you may encounter? What will you have to overcome to live the life of your dreams? Is your mind prepared to weather the setbacks and limitations that may make your goals seem impossible? Hopefully, after reading our book, your mind will be prepared. Even more so, we hope this book is a handbook that stays with you forever. One of the secrets to success and wealth is that once you master these fundamentals, all you have to do is repeat them over and over again to keep your Spirits high, your drive intense, and your mission on target. Repeat and review the processes of ingenuity in this book, they will help you prosper.

You may have to make decisions as a result of reading this book. You may make changes that your family, friends, or people you are around can't deal with. That's O.K. You have to maintain your Divine Purpose. Focus on your Divine Purpose, life, experiences, and new opportunities which will bring so many new people, places, and things to you. At that point in time, you will never look back. On the other hand, you may not have to make such drastic changes upon reading this book. Even if you don't, you can now be happy and confident that you have what it takes to take your life to the next level of progress. There are no limits to what you can achieve in this world as long as you have Divine Purpose and well thought out plans. Be your Self, and be the person your Creator wants YOU to be. That is all that we ask of you. We know that the rewards and benefits from living your own successful, Purposeful life are the greatest gift in the world. We are sharing this gift with you……

"Be Independent" - Chuck D

Introduction

Back In the Day

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say,
and what you do are in harmony."
–Gandhi

I am Hiphop. My birth name is Arnett Kale Powell, you can call me A.K., known in ciphers as "Divine." July 20th, 1999 was my thirteenth birthday. My Hiphop Driven Life began its course that following school year in sixth grade, but I didn't call it that, I was just being ME.

One night there was a storm. It was, rainy and windy, with lightning and thunder. I vividly remember that night, because I was inspired by watching one of those stigmata-type movies. No, no, not inspired in a possessed religious way, I mean shit, I was only thirteen years old. Previously, back in fifth grade, I had this image in my mind. Yo, it was crazy. One of those Godly things, you know what I mean. I'm talkin' this image mentally that I was this angel with powers sent from GOD with a Divine order to stop demons. I had the start of a whole life in my head. Now that I look back, I realize that it was creative visualization at an early stage in my mental growth.

Anyway, in sixth grade I had this beautifully designed mental life in my mind, a female and a house outside of New York workin' for the F.B.I. In my head, I figured then, that was the best way I could find those evil bastards, you know, the demons. I guess this was my way of dealing with life's pain.

Man, I would escape reality no matter what, whether I was sick, sad, depressed, or just straight bored. Yo, in my head, I was straight livin', I mean, word up. Mentally my life was set. That night, back in reality, I memorized a whole prayer in five minutes. No exaggeration; you can even ask my sister; for me it's that deep. What thirteen year old do you know would want to memorize somethin' like that, so fast? Shit, I wasn't brain washed to follow the Western world European-style of beliefs to go to church every Sunday and sing those same songs. So what was my drive? For me, the answers would have to come later.

Even though my mother was white, you must understand that she crossed the border line of race to be with my father, who was black. She never was the corny type, so I guess that's why he was attracted to her. When I looked at my mother, I just saw the woman who is my mom. When you talk to her, you see a woman, a human being, not some white lady. As a kid, I had it in my heart that I was going to do something big, killin' demons.....stoppin' evil, basically somethin' positive to help society. Why? I never really asked that type of question for myself at that time. I took it, accepted it, and hid it from the regulars -who I now call 90 percenters- outside of my consciousness.

I didn't tell anyone, not a soul. My focus wasn't entirely that. I mean, pops wasn't around, moms was stressed, sister was depressed, we had no money, lived in dumps, wore the same five outfits every week, mamma workin' her ass off, weird mothafuckas, racist people, haters, and just plain hard work. I never would have thought that Lafayette, Indiana would be so hard to live in. At least it wasn't as dangerous as Gary, Indiana.

We kept quiet about our situation and nobody knew what we were going through, because it's not like we begged for help. We pretty much kept it to ourselves. My dad fell into that damn stereotype for the black man and was an alcoholic. I never saw him much and he left when I was five. He left us all alone in a town with no friends because he couldn't just grow up and handle his damn problems. From that day on, we struggled. My mother never ever gave up. She is an example of a strong woman. Even though I never saw my dad, I knew were his ass was. He was either strung out on somethin', or he was in the black man's magnet (prison). The pen was more like his home; that is where most of his time was spent anyway.

He was a good man before he had his problem. He helped a lot of people at Purdue University as a student helper when he was twenty-one to twenty-five and he was very articulate. My dad must have had some type of smarts because he grew up in Gary, and is still alive. He was in gangs, and understood the streets. The problem started when he was young. His mom, who would have been my grandmother, was killed and buried alive under the sandy Beach of Lake Michigan. That messed his head up. It would have messed my head up as well. It would have messed anybody's head up.

I have a big family from and within Gary, but the sad thing is, we lost contact after my dad left sometime in 1991. I wanted to get back in contact with all my family, but I just didn't know how. I was young. Of course, my mom didn't want to because it was Kale's family and she was angry with my dad. Plus, she had gotten in a fight with my dad's sister in Gary, so any motivation to go back wasn't there. It wasn't her fault. In this time period, my oldest cousin, a male at forty-five years old, was shot in the head fuckin' with this crazy bitch in Gary. She set him up. He was previously warned, only his heart was on the honey, the girl, and bam! He got shot in the head with no chance to survive.

In Gary, I mean, it really is crazy. Sadly, it isn't uncommon for kids or just people period gettin' blasted on they ass. The homicides are so bad that if you were to smoke weed on the porch, ain't nobody gonna call the fuckin' cops, and if they did, what would happen? The cops deal with homicides, triple homicides, all the homicides you can think of, including the drug trade; even weird shit that I don't know about, and don't want to know about. So, which cop is going be bothered by somethin' petty like a brotha smokin' weed? Basically, Gary is so bad, that smoking weed is at the end of a long list full of extreme violence cops deal with.

I consider Gary a part of Chicago, because what the hell is this place doin' related to Indiana. If you smoke weed in Fort Wayne, Indiana, you might as well just turn your own ass in. Most of Indiana is extremely conservative and hardly anything slides. The only place in Ft. Wayne to smoke weed, other than your house, is in the worst part were all of the hard working people are. You probably might have guessed that. It's a good thing, that my father kept our family in Lafayette during my early years. At least in Lafayette, there wasn't any extreme violence like there is in Gary.

Lafayette was a weird little town. It had poor folks, thugs, hillbillies, hard workers, stuck ups, Hispanics, crazies, and *richie rich* folks. A lot of its population was woven around Purdue University. Purdue seemingly had its own college bubble town within Lafayette.

Me being black and white, I was always looked at as a black kid. I had no choices on race. According to America, I'm black. I acknowledge my mother's side, but I'm black. If you really want to know, I've had rocks and fruits thrown at me because of my skin. How ignorant is that? Also I've heard the word nigger used quite often by the hillbillies and racists. My mom was mis-treated, made fun of, discriminated against, and not respected at that time; even by her own culture and sadly her own family.

My mom has not had any true friends since I was born back in 1986. Even today, as I write this, the only friend she has is her new husband Andrew, who she recently married in 2004. Her family tells her that they are all disappointed in her actions. I would always say to my Self, "For God's sake people, help your damn sister and daughter don't rebuke her with blaming and scoffing. You are supposed to be her love and support." I guess not. That would have been too good to be true anyway. I was always confused about how white folks dealt with family issues. Sadly, my grandma died in January 1999. Everybody on my mom 's side came to the funeral and some friends. Bayo came. He's always been the only cousin that is like me, you know, a cool brother as well as bi-racial. After that event, which was a sad moment (I'll skip that sad part). We have all heard or felt all those sad emotions at a funeral. The main thing is that the family got together, and I got to know Bayo a little better.

Bayo and my Aunt Carol stayed for a while. I slept up stairs in the same room as Bayo, and this one night he was doin' his college homework. So I did a little of my homework. I was on a math problem and asked him for help. He helped me but then I started arguing with him. I was telling him that his process was wrong. Now, Bayo was a Freshman in college at the time, and I was in sixth grade! What the fuck was I doing tellin' a college student that he is wrong on a multiplication problem.

It all started then. See, Bayo never got frustrated with me, he was thinkin' ahead like…"Hmmm, interesting, A.K. has already begun thinking on his own." Basically, he was deciphering how our minds grow stronger by thinking on your own and questioning things. You gotta be curious and ask questions. So, my argumentation was a plus (even though we never did finish

our homework!). Late that evening, he moved down stairs to the dinning room table. I, of course, followed him and gave him some damn snacks just in case he got hungry. You may be thinking that was corny, but for me that was like the only brother I had. You need to understand that I always looked up to Bayo. I always did. If Aunt Carol came, the question was," Is Bayo coming?" He was like me, brown in a white family with a black dad. What can I say? We have a lot in common. There was always rapport, a much deeper rapport than with other people in my family (Study Anthony Robbins' Unlimited Power: A Black Choice to see what rapport is). After that visit, Bayo left before his mother did; and eventually my family went back to Lafayette. It's too bad our family was always distant.

In seventh grade, I got into the whole gangster shit. Eventually in middle school I went through the whole initiation part to be in G.D. and chillin' wit my crazy niccas. I always got along with brothas and Hispanics, cause hell, they mainly liked the same shit I did. You know Tupac, thuggin', smokin' every once in awhile. They seemed to have an understanding of what I did and was down with it. The Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings were the biggest gangs in Lafayette. My Self, Antwon, Na te, and a whole bunch of brothas I didn't know were also Gs. It was the life for us as youngsters.

Then, after awhile I noticed on my mother's side that I started talkin' to Bayo on the phone more often. He had some dial pad on his computer he could use to call me for free (We always on some bootleg shit). That nicca was my homey, I would tell him just about everything, and he never talked to me like I was some stupid kid. I finally had an older male figure to talk to. Man, I lived my life raised off of Tupac and the streets along with my homies. I had to learn everything the hard way. My mind was becoming more stressed because I was starting to perceive my life as being in poverty. I started thinking to my Self that "we are poor and my mom is strugglin'." I remember talkin' to my mom about bills and money issues.

Now that I look back, I can't believe how American society discriminates against minorities and anyone who is considered lower-class. My mother has a fiver-year Bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Purdue University. I thought college was supposed to guarantee that two story house with a white picket fence in commercials. I guess not. I couldn't force my Self to believe the Lies My Teacher Told Me, (also a book by James W. Lowen). At the age of forty, my mom was still making $9 an hour. When you calculate costs of driving to work, taxes, uniforms, and other costs for working, her real hourly wage would probably be below $5 an hour. This is a crime against humanity. It's unconstitutional, because it violates humane laws of minimum wage.

My mother suffered trauma from my father, discrimination, small town politics, family ostracism, and lack of opportunities to do Purposeful work. Why would there be less jobs for someone like her, who has a passion for nature? All these companies rip out trees and put toxins into the environment. No wonder they would not give her a job! Lafayette was an industrial town with pharmaceuticals plants like Eli Lilly, fossil-fueled businesses, and an aluminum plant named ALCOA. Like anywhere, there were too many restaurants. To this day, I don't know where she could have used her degree in Lafayette to afford paying rent, and taking care of my sister Krystal, and I. The woman didn't have anyone understanding enough to help properly. Krystal, who was older, had her own struggles too.

As a male, I had to be the stronger person out of us two. It's not my sister's fault either for her depression. I think it was just a bad gene from my dad, who had similar symptoms of depression. We just didn't have money to help Krystal properly. So she suffered every day with suicidal thoughts and secluding her Self from mom and I, and the whole world. She would have good days every once in awhile. If I was more mature and older back then; I probably wouldn't have done half of the things I did to her; I was just being a lil' brother. I would yell, calling her bad names, fighting, and sometimes making fun of her. No, I wasn't disrespectful, she would just say crazy things and then I would retaliate. I wouldn't have retaliated if I thoroughly understood her condition. I was young mentally couldn't express empathy.

School was always difficult for me, tryin' to fit in and pretend I was a regular kid when the pain of my life at home remained inside. A lot of my aggression ended up being directed toward my mother. That wasn't good for her at all. It probably made her feel worse inside. Since I chose actions with negative consequences, it resulted in more pain in our household. It was sometimes stressful every day, especially when I would come home from school and there wouldn't be enough food. At times my mom would sacrifice her meals just to feed us. If you were to see her old pictures, then you would be able to see how skinny she was. Nobody in that town understood us or what we were going through. Going to the food shelter wasn't uncommon in my house. Help seemed to not exist, so my mom fought with everything she had to offer, to keep us healthy and strong.

My only escape from that situation was what has been with me ever since elementary. I had my rap music and my mind-world, my vision. I would just write rhymes after rhymes after rhymes non-stop. I expressed mostly pain, killing, and death or just plain out negativity. I found my Self sitting, thinking, and talking to GOD asking for my Divine direction, powers, and just flat out help. I wondered to my Self, "When will my life finally turn around?" I wondered if I was going crazy. Around that time, I hit a threshold of needing to find answers. I knew that the higher power was GOD and that GOD would lead me to answers of what I should do next.

Finally, my eighth grade year came. This was my worst year because the town of Lafayette started gnawing at my fucking mind and gnawing on my mother and sister. I needed to get out of that stress box. My mother had planned for us to move

back to her home town Fort Wayne. We planned to move after my eighth grade year, and after my sister graduated from high school.

It was hard, because I knew what was going on but didn't know why. Why was my life so negative? Why do I feel like I 'm here to help and change? Why do I rap so much? Why don't I fit in? Why do I not want to fit in? These questions were building, but I couldn't answer them. What the hell is wrong with me? I would ask that daily. I began to think that I had what my sister had, an emotional imbalance of stress, biochemical storms that made her depressed all the time. What was my mind trying to perceive? My knowledge started to transform my lifestyle. My mind was maturing extremely fast and it was hard for me to keep up with it. I would think, "Is this the power from GOD that I always asked for?" In my future, I was marrying a woman I imagined in my mind. What did that mean? I loved my culture. What culture? I didn't know. I was thinking, "I'm poor, lonely, depressed, and now confused. Does anybody think this?" No one seemed to be thinking the same as me. What should I do?

Bayo! Bayo is the cousin that I have always looked up to. I knew he could help with all the confusion. The summer of 2000, my eighth grade year changed my mind forever...let me tell you. Ha Ha! I shouldn't have talked to that dude 'cause I tell you what! Ever since we really got to talk for long periods of time, my mind has never stopped growing and thinking. It's the same way even now as I write about this awakening of my genius (read Awaken The Giant Within by Anthony Robbins). That summer I had been talking to Bayo and he kept using the term Hiphop as a way to describe the mentality that generated rap. I was like, "What about all the booty shaking on T.V.?" Man I always liked Tupac better. I mean, Pac was like my dad in ways. He taught me how to rap, be a man, and be hard on the streets. What is Hip Hop or Hip-Hop? Bayo was like, "Naw man, you're not listening. Hiphop is a *Kulture*. He said, "I'll show you these papers about Spirituality a brotha named Rahz gave me." I said, "Aight cool, I'll check 'em." He was going to bring them sometime when he visited.

That same summer, we moved. Well, that was it. Yes! Thank GOD! By the fall of 2000, we were out that damn stress box of Lafayette. First, we had to move in with my gramps in another small town called Syracuse, Indiana. That shit sucked, but it was aight, because I treated it like a vacation. Also, I got to know my gramps better. It ended up being better than I thought it was. Plus, I was happy to get the fuck out of that damn stress box. I was so relieved. One morning I was chillin', sittin', and thinking when this thought came. I was like yo! I realized how crazy it is to be a brotha in a white family. Damn. That shit blew my mind, so I started thinking about it. Yo, no wonder everything seemed corny to me, the realest person besides Bayo in my life, was my moms and sister. That is probably because she crossed the border line with her interracial marriage to my father. Also, my mom was never a corny person any way. She has her own crazy stories to tell of her life. My sister Krystal, well, she knew how to be her Self.

It seemed as if I was an adopted black kid from a Hiphop family; somehow misplaced in a traditional stereotypical white family. Nobody but a bi-racial person can understand how this situation feels. Here's the thing, I love my family, but the understanding is so different. I started thinkin about school and started seein' how frivolous the shit really was. Damn. What the hell did Bayo do to me? My mind started seeing things from the back rather than from the front. I could see situations from the top, rather than from the bottom. I had a whole new outlook on life, a new view. At the time, I'm thinking to my Self "I'm diggin' this shit," it's like I had X-Ray vision and knowledge or somethin'. But, where would my earlier vsion - that I was sent from GOD to fight off demons - fit in?

I started talkin' to Bayo more. We started conversing about how I feel and his discoveries. I felt like we were brothers. As all of that was flowin' through my head, my family and I were gettin' ready to move to Fort Wayne for good. Finally!

In the Summer of 2001, we were makin' constant trips back and forth to the Lafayette from Fort Wayne. Damn! Movin' sucks! We ended up gettin an apartment, which was better than the old house back in the stress box. Anything is better than that place. As the moment would fade, I would then start to reminisce, I started thinkin about my friends: Hugo, Antwon, Nate, Carlos, Ty…shit all my niccas. I remembered always being wit Hugo up on the video games, stayin' up late at night, and eaten when his mom cooked. His mom can cook for real, and I ain't playin'! That cookin' was gooood!!

My homey Antwon, or Twon (for short) and I would always be playin ball, dissin' punks, fake fightin', chillin, hittin' up a few parties, and listening to music. We ended up doin' some crazy shit; like this one time we went to a party. Of course, I lied to my mom and said I was at Antwon's crib, when both of us were at the party wit our crazy nicca Nate. We passed and smoked about five Js around in a circle. I ain't gonna lie, it was some white boy party, but we still got lifted.

Nate, our nicca Nate was straight crazy. I mean, he was straight from Chicago, you know, hard, violent, and a G to the fullest extent. He was always fightin somebody. Me, I was a hard nicca inside. I was just always so damn quiet. I didn't have any leadership figure to rough me up and teach me how to be more expressive about my anger. Tupac and my friends were the only ones to teach me that. I didn't know how to express my Self like them niccas. Shit, Nate had Chicago streets, Twon had his step father figure. I had them and mainly Tupac. Of course GOD would teach me how to handle my problems.

I remember seein' my nicca Kevin from elementary. Oh shit, now that was one bad nicca. We used to chill and do everything in elementary. We always were fightin somebody. That's my nicca for real. We was always tryin' to mess with these two girls too. I ain't mentioning names so don't wonder. I remember one had a party so Kevin and I went to the mall and stole

some shit for the party. That was back in elementary. But back in middle school, I remember when my nicca Twon almost fought this beastie white kid who was in High School; shit we was only in Junior High. But I remember that night at a football game. I just froze and was standin' back. What the fuck? I wanted to say somethin, but somethin held me back. GOD. GOD held me back 'cause that wasn't part of my Divine Purpose. If I said something, then it would have escalated to somethin else. Twon was mad, so we stopped talkin' and almost fought in the bathroom. We were cool after a while when it died down.

Then there was Carl. Yo, that was one of the coolest cats in the town. At least, that's what it seemed like. But he died, our nicca to look up to died from cancer in one year. It blew everybody's mind. He was only in High School. Cancer just struck him like lightning. I pray that his mom is doing better, but R.I.P. Carl. There were hardly ever any murders beside one I can remember, when a guy nailed a judge with a twelve gage. There was a lot of fights though, especially between Gs and the V ne cks (VL).

Around that time, Bayo and I were talkin' on the phone a lot. He was prepping' me for my first year at a new High School in the Fall of 2001. I had so many questions. Yo, speakin' of High School, I had never been to a High School in a bigger city before.

The first day of ninth grade at Snider High School in Ft. Wayne was a shock. It smelled different, the bodies were different, but somethin worse. It was a fuckin fashion show. I moved from a dirty rugged smaller town (pop. approx. 90,000) to a bigger preppy mainstream town (pop. approx. 300,000). The whole year was difficult for me to get use to. I had no friends, plus only a few new threads for me to wear.

I was being prejudged off my clothes. Then, in my gym class, I met this dude named Rob. Rob was an ill-nicca. He was the coolest cat I've probably met even now as I write this story. Rob and I would just chill, play ball, and chill like I used to with Twon, Hugo, and Nate back in Lafayette. This one day though, we got in an argument and before you know, we was about to fight. I mean we started smashin' each other with our shoulders and then he backed up wit his fists like "You don't know me like that man!" This dude Joseph jumped in and broke it up. Rob was about to explode. We was about to fight. But it was an act from God. The next day he was like "we cool" and I was like "yeah," then we gave the pound and forgot about it.

From then on, Rob has always been my nicca. He always had my back and I had his. It was a done deal straight up. If I ain't meet Rob then I would have suffered in that damn high school even worse. I had this hair cut that was killin' 'em. You know what I'm sayin', because he had jokes on me. No doubt, shit was funny, I mean, I still had this box top. Then there was this dude I met before Rob. This dude was cool at first but then he started to get on my nerves, like it ain't nothin'. It started out as us doin' this little rap gig. I ain't gonna lie, my style was a little off. We would make songs and shit. A couple of days we would blaze and this one day we hit this bong. I was thinking like, "damn this is the shiiiiiiiit!" It fucked me up the whole rest of the day. Then I don 't know what happened, but me and that nicca started to get on bad paths. We started not to be cool anymore.

He and Rob, at that time, where the only Gs that I knew. Then he started talkin' shit, mad shit. It ain't me to be like this, but I needed to shut him the fuck up. Eventually we fought. Man, I ain't never been in such a weak. fight ever in my life. He got one good hit. It didn't affect me, I got a tag but he kept wrestlin' me and I just kept picking him up and slammin' him. Then it was over. I got my respect; but to me and Rob it should have been on a bloopers series or somethin'.

Throughout the year of 2001, I had been talkin' to Bayo almost every night conversatin' on some real issues. In December 2001, he came to visit after a long time of not seein' him since my grandma's death in January of 1999. Bayo and I started talking, and we found out that rappin' came easy for us. And that's when it all started. We first started rapping in our grandfather's basement during this Christmas break. Our problem was the need for more instrumentals. Neither of us lived in urban areas. It wasn't like there were record shops everywhere, DJ's all around, or beat makers cookin' up beats to share with us. We vowed we would find some beats and keep working on our skillz.

From then on, it all made sense. I just knew that Bayo and I had some type of Divine Purpose in this world, we just didn 't know how it would work out. Before he left from that visit, we got in some heated discussions talking about what's real Hiphop and how to get in the game. That's when he showed me the Hiphop papers about KRS and other papers he got from Rahz. After the New Year celebration, when he was about to leave, he pulled out a book he would let me hold. I read that book the day after he left. It soon became the first real deep book that I read. The book was called Niggas to Gods pt. II by Akil. I read that book in one night. I just kept readin'. I was thirsty for knowledge. It explained everything about why brothas keep movin' back to the hood, why the African-Americans want to stay there, and also the political side of life as a black man in America.

After Bayo had been gone for a while, and the school year went on, eventually my freshman summer came, the Summer of 2002. I had been working at Taco Bell. I would work ALL the time. I remember pullin' 10 hour shifts in that summer. My freshman summer was crazy. There was this girl I was chillin with who was already out of high school. At that time, I thought she was aight. You know she was cool. I knew her through her brother. He was a senior at the time and we started chillin because he also rapped. He would come to my mom's apartment. We would hook up this cheap recorder, make a song, and then rap. He brought this beat machine and so we started makin' our own beats right off bat. I thought that his sister was real

intelligent at the time since she went to IPFW (Indiana/Purdue in Fort Wayne). It's too bad I started noticing childish shit she did and also her damn attitude was as bad as a damn car with a fucked up muffler! I was young and stupid. She started losing my respect so the attraction faded rapidly. I thought she was smart. That experience lead me to realize that it ain't school or being out of school that makes you intelligent. I realized it's really about your awareness of what's goin' on in your Self and the world. That same girl and my sister got into a fight and that was that. I was done foolin' with her after all that chaos.

Not long after that shit happened, I went to Chicago with my nicca Tron. I was normally not so secretive, but it was against my mothers wishes, or basically she didn't know because I lied about were I was stayin'. It was a funny trip because we were just blazin' blacks left and right tryin' to stay up and chill. We were there for about three to four days just chillin. That shit was tight as fuck. We had freedom. Just he and I rollin' around in Chi-Town with a couple of niccas from the suburbs we met up there. I'll tell you, Chi-Town is just straight up fast, full, and crazy. We went to malls and rolled around. Then one night we went to one of those areas known as one of the worst areas of Chicago. It was hardcore throughout the whole thing. We drove around lookin' for action like dumbfucks and we found some in this neighborhood off of one of the main streets. We went down and were decidin' if we should get out. I mean, Chi-Town is intense, it ain't a place to fuck around in. Also we were out pretty late, so it was also dangerous. It was about 11:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. That's when it was time to go inside for real.

We got out of the car down the street in the neighborhood anyway. It was me, Tron, his cousin and his girlfriend, and two other niccas from the suburbs. Then Tron had to take his cousin and his cousin's girl to find a bathroom. I stayed and so did the two other niccas. Then the girls from down the street came down as we expected. I started thinkin like damn, I don't know were the fuck we at. I didn't even know how to get out of where we where. Then I started worryin' if Tron would find his way back because we weren't from Chi-town. Man, he better find his damn way back or we're fucked.

So here I am, with two niccas from the suburbs in a place I ain't know. Stuuupid! They were scared. The girls that came down started talking with us. So, I started talkin' to this one chick with this near perfect body from what I could see. It was dark, so I really couldn't tell the details like that. We just started yappin' away at a whole bunch of shit. We didn't introduce each other by name, but she could tell by my talk that I wasn't from Chicago. At that point I learned that being from the hood doesn't mean you have to be ghetto and ignorant, because she was intelligent.

Then, the dudes from the streets came down. This time in my mind I put on my defense system because I was in their hood not mine. There were three or four of them and the energy was intense. The other two brothas were hugged up against the fence and I was in a way surrounded. I kept it cool and kept talkin' confidently because those dudes weren't some fuckin' aliens. They were people just like everybody else. It don't matter were you from, people are people. What city you're in don't mean a damn thing as to who you are or how hard you are. I was also used to those type of niccas.

It wasn't nuthin' big, but I didn't know how the dudes from the subs would handle it. Then as I was talking, one of the dudes had a basketball dribbling. I don't know what happened, but the ball flew up and hit one of the dudes from the suburbs on the fence. He didn't say a thing and the ball just bounced to the curb. I couldn't believe it! These dudes from the suburbs were all geared out like they were hard Hiphoppas, but they were punks. They were copying what they saw on M.T.V. and B.E.T. They weren't real. The dudes from the neighborhood just walked away. I realized at that point that Hiphop is about more than colorful hats. I would have started laughin' but then the girl was like "We got to go." So I said, "peace nice talkin'." She said, "you too." That was that. Tron came back in like forty-five minutes to an hour later and we bounced.

All of a sudden Tron skidded out into the street right in front of a cop. The cop started to come after us so we dipped in a neighborhood, turned off the lights and got down. We ain't see the cop. He probably got a more important call to deal with then us. At night it ain't the young thugs you have to worry about. It's the grown men that are drunk with a young mentality. We got out the car and all you could hear was cars, dudes drunk and yellin', beer bottles being thrown to the ground shatterin', grown women yellin' (when they talked for no reason), so we got back into the car and left. The weird thing was, it seemed like those noises were around us, like on every street corner. On the way out, you could see grown women sittin' on the edge of the street prostitutin with they nasty Self. Chicago is fucked up at night. I can tell you that first hand. Tron and I finally left to go back to Fort Wayne. When we got there, I settled in then the following night I called Bayo.

We talked forever on the phone. We were getting deeper and deeper into consciousness. Bayo would always build with his friend Rahz. When we got on the phone, we would always build off of something new. Bayo and I also thoroughly uncovered all the secrets to the sciences of attraction, sexual chemistry, and relationships. There were also other numerous discoveries we have made that are out of the scope of this book. We'll uncover those epiphanies in future books, albums, or videos. It was around June 2002, and Bayo needed to move out of his mom's crib. We were already trying to arrange for me to come down to Tennessee, so I could visit and chill. We finally decided that we would meet halfway in Indiana then drive down through Louisville, Kentucky to see his older cousin William.

Bayo and I were talking about a lot of shit by that time. I remembered that he had gone to Vanderbilt University for the last two and a half years. Then he left because of low grades and also because of losing his financial aid back in March of 2001. He had a lot of shit to deal with. He needed to move away from his mom and the mentality of negative friends and

family. Also from the negative brothas and sistas at Austin Peay State University (this small state college he was going to).

We stayed on the phone talking about how rap music was on T.V. and affecting people in our own lives. Also, we noticed how ignorance started turnin' into people who acted like life is only about gear and clothes as well as money and bitches. This mainstream shit was big in Fort Wayne. I also told Bayo about how I recently found out about Rob truly being one of my cousins from Gary. He was my first contact with a cousin from there. I didn't know much about my dad's family. What are the chances of me finding one of my cousins from Gary in Fort Wayne? We were distant cousins, but fuck it, we treat each other like first cousins. So he is one of my first cousins for real.

Anyway, back to June 2002, my mother and her boyfriend gave me a ride to meet Bayo halfway in Indiana. We finally got to the meeting spot. Bayo was waiting for us. When we arrived, I put my bags in his car. I got in, he got in, and as soon as the last door slammed, it was over. We were in the zone. We started really touchin' base with some lifetime visions and goals type shit. Then, we listened to my Tupac C.D.s, and then some of his Common C.D.s. Then we started talkin' about the rap artists we respect like Pac, Nas, Common, Twalib Kweli, Mos Def, Gangstarr, KRS-ONE, and some other real niccas. Then, he put this inspirational C.D. in. It was crazy funny, I mean we were driving down Interstate I-65 South in Indiana, going toward Louisville listening to this motivational speaker. This dudes voice was going a million miles a minute like it wasn't nuthin'. Bayo was jokin' sayin' shit like, "We must listen to the power within." That shit was funny. That's Bayo, always on some New Age type shit. There it was, my first time seeing Louisville. It was a nice city. The downtown glistened from the sun's beams. The city is right by the river. Then on your left, comin' down from Indiana, you could see the old brick buildings probably were the souls of our brothas and sistas are. You know how sad that shit is. We talked about the movie Ali, and thought about what it must have been like for Muhammad Ali to grow up there.

One exit to the next, before you know it, we were at his cousin William's crib. It was nice in a quiet white neighborhood in Louisville. William had a nice beautiful wife and two girls. Bayo had helped William move after William graduated from University of Cincinnati Medical School. He was cool because he was an authentic Nigerian and was just a laid back dude. I couldn't believe this man was going to be a surgeon, but he was still calm and collected even after his medical school years. We all ate and chatted with each other a little bit and they joked about me knowing alcohol terms because, you know, I wasn't at the age of legal poisoning yet. I was still fifteen goin' on sixteen (really going on 25). Then the goodbyes came and we left to go to Clarksville, TN to Bayo's mom's crib where he was staying.

As we left, a couple hours away, Bayo put in the C.D. that changed everything for me. It was a burned C.D. with KRS giving a speech about Hiphop. It was the "Fundamentals of Hiphop." That was when I fully came to respect KRS like Bruce Lee. The Teacha is the undisputed master emcee of Hiphop. He fully explained it all for me, and answers to my lifestyle started unwinding in my mind. Ever since then, Hiphop permeated through my mind, body, and soul. I just discovered that Hiphop is who I am and Hiphop is that Kulture that I respected all along. I am Hiphop.

By this time, Bayo started teaching me more and more about Anthony Robbins and his Life management philosophy, strategy, and tactics. We were getting deeper and deeper in the rabbit whole. I started analyzing everything from then on. We got to Tennessee and I greeted my aunty Carol and got settled in. That night, it was about 1:00 a.m. and Aunt Carol was a sleep. She always has been a light sleeper. We had the T.V. low, speakers on the P.C. were low, and I needed an edge up so I asked Bayo to cut my hair and line it up. He got half way, when his mom got upset came in and started yelling like he was ten years old. I couldn't believe it. It was funny. I didn't want to make her mad so I had to go to sleep with half a hair cut! She went back to sleep and that's when Bayo said, "See man, that's why I'm about to leave here and live on my own. I need my own space man."

When Bayo was ready to move into his apartment, we moved all his stuff in the next day. It was tight because now it was just he and I with no distractions. We went looking for a full size mattress for his bed frame. While we were looking, traveling the road, we were just freestylin' and talking about plans. Mainly, we talked about how he was fed up with the bullshit in college and how mixed up college systems are. It seemed like the damn college's transferred credits, regulations, and rules would yank him back every time. It seemed like a bungee cord when he tried to move forward. There were all these stupid classes Austin Peay wanted him to take like P.E., Tennessee History, and they kept rejecting his appeals to have all his credits from Vanderbilt transferred over fully. I could sense that it was a real stressful time for him. He was getting serious and wanted to get out of that fuckin traditional crap because it started messin' his life up.

In that week, I visited Nashville, Vanderbilt University, and saw that atmosphere. We saw Tennessee State University, Fisk University, and Meharry Medical College, not to mention all the fine women on these campuses. Nashville's a big college city, I observed that Vanderbilt's campus buildings looked old and Gothic, like they had demons in them. The setting seemed nice, but the whole shit was preppy. Everything seemed so happy go lucky like there was no issues. It was quiet, but too quiet for me. It was the type of quiet where you can sense things going on in a secret underworld society, like that movie "Skull and Bones." It was deep. I could see how Bayo would have been the only muthafucka in the library and with a bad grade on the

final exam days, as if they were secretly passing around test answers. Then I knew it was a good move that Bayo had got his ass out of that college situation. Seriously, it was like a robot factory of trained workers.

I remember that night, we wanted to wil'out among all those Nashville country folks. So I was thumbin' through some of Bayo's weird C.D.'s I never heard of. I found this Brazilian stuff. I thought it would be funny, so I looked at him, and then he said, "Yo, put that in." We both knew I was leaning toward fuckin with those people and their country music. I started rolling down the windows. I didn't know what to expect from this C.D. that had Sergio Menendez on it. All of a sudden I heard these tinker bells, and then this dude saying some shit like. "Hey….magalenha hojo, triza elenia pru pudo…..(some shit like that). We was bumpin' some tribal shit with 'God knows what the dudes sayin' and white boys looking at us with funny faces. I think people really thought we knew the lyrics. They thought we knew what he was saying because we acted and bobbed our head to the music like we knew what the song meant.

We had to be funny and disturb the country air! Anyway, we got to downtown Nashville and rolled down the windows and blasted that shit full volume!! It sounded like we were a tribe coming down the road!! That shit had us dyin' laughing. All these country people would look over at us shocked like we were crazy. I'll never forget that. There were country folks, going in to western bars, and pool halls. Here we were sounding like some South American bandits; straight up rebels.

I also experienced what Bayo was talking about in Clarksville, TN. It was very dull and there was not much to do. We walked around the mall and the women were like zombies in a box. It was lame there. I asked where the brothas and sistas are, and he said, "You know where our people are," and I said, "In the worst part of town as always." It's like they were sectioned and cut off from the city. It's always so sad to see our people boxed up like that.

We shopped around and fixed up his apartment. We figured, if he was going to be stuck in Clarksville, he could at least entertain the females to get him through the rough times. We cleaned the crib, was watchin' Bruce Lee flicks talking, and discussing everything from movies to new street knowledge. We was even creating more plans. I only was able to stay for about a week.

Finally, we left back to Fort Wayne. Before we got there, we stopped in Lafayette and he saw my old houses and met my friend Hugo. That summer was deep for me and Bayo. We really connected on some real shit learnin' more about each others lives. We left the old stress box (Lafayette) to go back to Fort Wayne. The messed up thing was, we could only squeeze in one week to chill with each other and do things in our family. A week isn't enough to see your cousin (brother), especially how tight we are, we talk so intensely that we squeeze a years worth of talking into one week. We both have always had big mouths. The whole trip was spent learning more. I was thinking, figuratively speaking, that God had made a mistake. Bayo wasn't supposed to be my cousin. He was suppose to be my brother. We just needed to grow up differently to experience different things. This is what separates his character and mine. We come from different understandings. That moment of thought only seemed so true. That is pretty deep if you really think about it. Our minds are just the same, but yet we grew up facing different obstacles. We always come at the view with a wide spectacle of techniques, creating an even more engulfment of understanding. From that trip on, I knew that our Divine Purposes were to conquer evil in the world or at least make a difference somehow.

We got to Ft. Wayne, and we decided to go up to our grandfather's house. Just to our luck, we got stopped by a cop. We almost got a traffic violation for running a red light. It really wasn't our fault, Bayo cleverly explained that the big mack truck in front of us had blocked the light. We talked our way out of that one. It was strange, with cops, the tiniest things can always make even the most tense situation peaceful. By us having a pleasant attitude the cop gave us a warning to stay back from trucks because it is hard to see the stop lights and told us to have a nice day and that was that.

That evening, we went to get some Chinese food and spent time with our grandfather talking. It was always deep to me how we were sort of oddballs in our family, but we seemed to care more about how our grandfather was doing, enough to spend time with him. We always felt like we should cheer him up and keep him in good Spirits, especially since our grandmother passed away in 1999. He is a white man born in at the turn of the 20th Century, but he came around to accepting us as within the family, even with our black fathers. We appreciated that we could at least connect with him. The next day, Bayo had to leave back to Tennessee.

The rest of the Summer of 2002, I spent chillin with Rob and smokin weed every once in a while. This one night, Rob and I were so high that we recorded what we were saying. I lived in the top story of my apartment complex. It was three stories high. Rob went on the balcony and was like "Deeyumn," "Aay, aay Yo homey, come here dawg," I went over there and he pointed for me to look over the balcony. I looked over and fell backwards. Man....It felt like we fell off the damn balcony. You look forward and all you saw was the ground comin' at you as if it was thrown your way. That was some funny shit. I would always go in and out of experiences like that.

In the Fall of 2002, my Sophomore year of high school started and nothin' but the same ol' shit happening. Around the end of August, I remember one day Bayo called and was like, "Yo man, I just met Les Brown!" and I said, "For real!" He said something about Les Brown giving a speech at Austin Peay the night before. Bayo said, "I showed him my life plan in my RPM

planner. I went up to him three times that night about working for him. He told me he would call me back. I may be able to work for him in a sales position!" I was like, "Word man, that's tight, see, most people wouldn't be persistent and wouldn't show him their life planner!" At that point and time, I had a good feeling Les Brown would call him back, and our dream was getting started.

The next day, when I called Bayo, that nicca was hype! He was like, "He called me back man! He called me back!" I was like, "Yeah man, that's cool, see we had a good feeling he was!" After that Bayo replayed the message and sure enough that dude was on his voice mail in a deep ass voice like, "HI BAYO, THIS IS LES BROWN CALLING…." As he played the message we both got that feeling like this is where we need to be, rubbin' shoulders with movers and shakers. Anyway, after all that hype, it turned out that Les Brown was so busy that we couldn't get back in touch with him. Oh well, I'm thinking the next day we were gonna just talk about the success Bayo had of building a relationship with Les Brown; but Bayo's crazy ass!.....Sent a fifty some page Brief of Qualifications to Les Brown Enterprises Inc. I guess you might as well take the brief out of the title. Either way, I know that shit got Bayo thinkin' of takin' major risks to get his life on the right track.

Then, one day I get this phone call from Bayo, he was like, "What's up man," I said," "What's up dog," he said, "You gonna be heated with me man. Now remember how we had worked hard on this apartment, I dropped out of Austin Peay Univ. so I could get my tuition money back. I'm going to move to D.C. and start a business in Real Estate." I said "For real, after all that work to get into that apartment!!!" he said, "Yep,------I'm a crazy mufucka," and we both just busted out laughin'.

Then I said, "What's the Purpose?" he said,

"Man, this college shit–is eaten my brain up, I ain't no college boy, I've already put four years of blood, sweat, and tears to get a degree, what the fuck,-----fuck college!! "See, A.K., its like this, my father is going back to Africa, to take care of some of his whole debt situation, and he said that he wants me to take care of all his paperwork while he's gone. He has accounts I may be able to access just in case of an emergency and I have a bunch of credit cards," I said, "Ah shit, don't tell me your gonna do it" Bayo said "Hell yeeeaaah, there's nothing else for me here. I mean why not. What do I have to lose? I'm tired of people tellin' me their definition of success, tryin' at make my life hard, you know what I'm sayin'." I was just like "word up".

Later, Bayo spent the rest of that fall preparing to move to the East Coast. He had always known this Ethiopian lady named Mekdes and her daughter Deborah who lived in P.G. County. I remember that Bayo drove up there twice just to make some plans and find a place to live. He put thousands of miles on his Honda Accord. It was crazy, but it had to be done if the nicca wanted to escape that damn town.

Around that same time, my dumb ass got caught at a party high off weed and a little bit of alcohol in my system. I had to go to court for minor consumption right before Christmas. So when Bayo came to visit that Christmas, he came a month earlier to visit. He wanted to go to my court appearance cause he knew shit could get twisted around and the system could get me caught up. Luckily, I only got sixteen hours of community service and a month on probation with a fifty dollar fine. I was still working at Taco Bell so I was able to pay that.

After that, Bayo and I went back to work. Now, I mean our Purposeful music work. We never really had any music equipment. That whole year of 2002, Bayo burned hundreds of beats off his computer from a program called Kazaa. He would send me new instrumentals every couple of weeks. It wasn't the best, but we had something to work with. That Christmas we got in the studio (a karaoke machine in my mom's living room). All we did was rap and build. We made an album with a theme and concept called "Minority Report," after watching that movie with Tom Cruise in it, and listening to Prince's album "Rainbow Children." We even did a song rapping over the instrumentals on Alicia Key's "Rock With You." Hey, it worked, it sounded like she was right there with her vocals, backing up our lyrics. We some creative niccas, and always have been. We mixed interludes from that with all types of beats and wrote lyrics for about sixty minutes worth of songs in one week…..recorded on a karaoke machine.

The only thing was that I was just sixteen, so my voice wasn't as deep as it is now. We weren't balanced on the recordings, and we didn't have timing and hooks together. We kept it, but it was just for fun. We studied Anthony Robbins RPM life management system to work on our visions, Purpose, and goals. We would play Nas' "Mastermind" in the background just zonin' out. We only had a week together, so our life's plan unfolded all in a short period of time. On one of those days, we stayed up till four or five a.m. doin' a fuckin jigsaw puzzle and talkin'. We got that shit done. It showed us how we're teammates like Jordan and Pippen, and the fact that our minds keep evolving until a project is complete. God was demonstrating to us our positions, and after that, Universal Truths started unfolding all of a sudden, one after the other.

In January of 2003, that was it for Bayo in Tennessee. Bayo really did it. He went back after visiting me in Ft. Wayne, got his shit together and moved from that military town of Clarksville to the DC Metro, by himself in a Honda Accord, on a one way trip to freedom in the North! I was thinkin, "Man, we some ill-mastermind niccas." And that's only when our Divine Purpose was getting underway.

As the year went on, our minds grew deeper, then I could imagine visual pictures in shorter and shorter periods of time.

Bayo was on a serious grind to make money in real estate. He would work for hours and hours, and we would talk on the phone usually every night. Sometimes I couldn't get him to stop being serious. It was intense. I was really the only person he could trust at the time.

He just jumped into the business world and was meeting all these people. I don't know how this nicca built up hundreds of contacts so fast in his first year. He was learning the game from his own experiences, and from this Vietnamese dude named Minh who had a mentorship program, teaching lease option strategies or something like that. It was crazy when Bayo started working for that dude. My Spirit always told me the dude was a snake. Bayo finally created his own job as an assistant with Minh around June of 2003. I used to get heated, because it seemed like that guy was expecting too much of Bayo's hard working mentality, and we didn't have as much time to build on the phone. Bayo always talked about it like he was living two lives. Yet, he told me, he had to be sure he made the right decisions. He came close to doing all these deals after he did some marketing, but it seemed like Minh wouldn't help him close the deals like he was supposed to.

During the same time, Bayo was also dealing with this other dude named Kevin who was a foreclosure expert. Bayo said he was a black dude who knew more than the Vietnamese dude. It was always a struggle, because we was tryin' to feel all these businessmen out to make the right decisions. I wasn't there, and Bayo had all this shit on his mind

At one point, Bayo almost had a deal to help a former crack addict who was going through foreclosure. The black dude, Kevin, started playing three card Monte with the paperwork and we didn't know who the fuck was telling the Truth. At one point, Kevin went on vacation for like two weeks in July. He would say one thing and do another. Next thing you know, the client and Kevin were telling Bayo two different stories. We finally figured out that Kevin was also trying to use Bayo, but our minds caught on fast and Bayo confronted Kevin, and scared him away. Kevin thought Bayo was going to blackmail him. He was probably around thirty-five and was a real estate con-artist, the type of person that talks out of both sides of his mouth. He was the type of nicca that said all the perfect things. Thank God we knocked his hustle.

Bayo just stopped fuckin with a lot of people in real estate after that because there were a lot games being played and false motives behind investors. You know, smile in your face, and stab you in the back. In September, he closed a deal with Minh to help this African woman who was a landlord. She had to sell her house because her mother had a fatal illness. The lady was going to deed her house over to them. Bayo knew it wasn't a top notch money makin' deal, but it was a start to his business. Bayo went to some conference in Baltimore and realized that his so called mentor was already getting caught up with the money, fame, and influence he had over inexperienced investors. He was turning into a sales addict guru like a Carlton Sheets type of guy. The Vietnamese dude Minh had put up a good front all this time, he just started getting real greedy. We didn't know any better, and many of Bayo's associates didn't either, we only knew so much about real estate. Bayo talked to some more experienced investors who gave him the heads up.

I'll never forget the day Bayo quit workin' for the dude. He wrote a 6 pg. Letter telling Minh his business was a front, fraud, and façade. He sent me a copy…and a few other powerful people in the real estate circles up in that Baltimore/D.C. area. What made it so bad was this guy didn't take on the deal they agreed to partner up on. He left that lady hanging in foreclosure. Our question was, "If the deal wasn't good enough for Minh, why did he offer it to Bayo?" That guy was an idiot to think we were gonna fall for that shit. Bayo finally chose to go the wholesale route and work on flipping houses and put together his own team. When I talked to him on the phone, I felt like he was more himself when he wasn't working under anybody.

Our two different worlds were always intense at the same time. We helped each other by talking about our crises every day. Later on in the year, I met this girl at the same time as Bayo was starting to struggle more and more with money. Things were flowin between her and I, until it hit. She told me her dad was raping her anally, basically it was incest and sodomy. I was shocked like.....WHAT!! I told Bayo about the situation and we talked for hours and hours about all the laws, and concluded that I needed to do something to help her. To make a long story short, I spent the rest of the summer in 2003 and during the year fighting to help her keep her head up and get a better life. Thankfully, I succeed in helping bring justice to her pain. It was an revelation from God to show that I'm here for a reason: to help others.

Now, Bayo and I struggled with his issues, my issues, and now her issues as well. It was only God that kept our minds at ease. Sometimes the stress was too much. Bayo had to deal with barely scrapin' by money wise for rent and food. The fucked up thing was, he had to resort to credit cards, because he knew a job would stop him from time he needed to learn the real estate investing business. We figured he would get more money from his first deal by the end of the year. The scary thing is he had no car insurance or health insurance, so he was literally riding on the edge.

The crazy thing is that our minds are so connected that it's as if I was there every step of the way, like I was consuming the ups, downs, joys, and pains right along side him. Plus, we were on the phone every night. I mean shit, we're all we have and God to succeed in this crazy world.

Nobody that we know closely seemed to agree with our decisions and our undaground way of thinking. I succeeded in helping my girl who had been repeatedly sodomized by her father. He was sick in the head. Due to a court order, as well as me

growing so fast mentally, she and I broke up. Her father tried to use me as a scapegoat, so our break up was in her best interest. I was also ordered to appear in court in August and October to testify. After that depression, my junior year started in the fall of 2003. Bayo was now a free entrepreneur and I was a liberation thinker survivin' the High School fakeness matrix. The saga continued.

I almost lost my fuckin mind when Bayo told me about the IRS Tax issues. He told me that his dad had done some trading in the stock market online way back around 1997-1999. He had some kind of account where his dad used his name and social security number. Man, I was talking to Bayo and he was like, "The IRS is after me!" I was like …"Oh shit…not another fuckin problem!" He said they were after him for like $60,000 dollars or something between $60K and $70K. Bayo wasn't really on speaking terms with his father, so he tried to re-file taxes, and all this weird shit.

To this day the IRS still says he owes on the tax lien. He talked to his dad whose supposed to re-file. His dad confirmed there was no profit made anyway. Damn, why's it gotta be so hard for us black men in America! All we want is freedom! I'm like Nicca don't worry man. They ended up filing the $60,000 tax lien against him in Nov. I was afraid they would go after his accounts and garnish any wages he made. What made it so bad was somebody ran into his Accord in November around the same time and they found out he was driving without insurance, so he got a ticket and a fine too! I felt like we were in some type of hell. "Are we in the beast? WHY US?!?!"

Despite all the chaos, there were some positive events that kept our Spirits high. The best part about that year was on Dec. 22, 2003 when KRS came to D.C., and Bayo was talking to Malik-ONE through email. So they made a plan for him to go early and meet KRS. I was like finally, when Bayo told me he talked to the Teacha! It was short and brief conversation, cause he was doing a sound check, but it was some inspiration after all the shit we'd been through. Maybe God was showin' me the vision. I was hopin' Bayo would get us more information about how to get ourselves on our feet, by using our rap and creative expressions of Hiphop. We wanted information on getting in the game, but he did what he could, so I wasn't trippin'.

In January 2004, I had a cool selected group of friends (people I could trust). I chilled with my cousin Rob a.k.a. Rated R, Tim a.k.a. TK, Justin a.k.a. JSpragz, Jermaine a.k.a. GI (cause he's from Gary). I also knew this nicca that I never talked to named B.J, he was a nicca touchin' on real issues outside my crew. In the morning before school started, we always got in a cipher and Rob would beatbox, and me and Jspragz would be freestylin' with this other nicca named Fred.

Now, I was realizing how much my life has changed around stayin' cool with Rated R. These were some niccas I could trust. Ft. Wayne is a preppy town. Some brothas come from bigger cities where they're used to the murder circle mentality. There are places in Ft. Wayne where the brothas will kill you if you fuck with them enough. So I stay away from the violence and crime. I joined the African –American club at Snider High, because I had so much knowledge, people would ask me if I'm the president or leader. I'd tell them, "I do and take actions for the best of the group." The head teacher in charge, Ms. Lewis, always told me I remind her of her son. She noted my eagerness, type A personality, and stubbornness. I always see Ms. Lewis as a strong black woman and I know that she is a great mother. She is an example of a role model for young African-American women.

As Spring break approached in 2004, my cousin Rob and I planned to go to Gary for three or four days. That was a unique situation for me. Because in Gary, even though there is extreme violence, my comfort level was still high. I felt like my body was rooted in Gary. My family is so strong, even though a lot of them have moved away. The Spirit of our family still flows through that city. As I was there with Rob and his grandmother, I felt at home every second of being there. Of course, being in Gary, we always felt comfortable to blaze some ganja (weed). Me, Rob, and his grandmother, well mainly Rob and I, would smoke about three joints each day, as if we were smoking peace pipes like Native Americans would do sitting around a fire in Spirit. Gary, of course, is still dirty in the sense that a lot of the streets have holes, old tar, broken beer bottles, glass, and trash from tobacco packets; all lying everywhere, especially in the worst areas of Gary.

Besides the wrong neighborhoods to travel in, one other aspect is that Gary has an environment where wearing jewels and all that mainstream stuff, like in Ft. Wayne, is not as popular. They basically don't judge you on all that shit. If you have it cool, then you're cool. Their main focus is, how much respect do you have with the people in Gary? How many people are cool with you and know who you are? That's what it's mainly about in Gary. Also, what is important is kind of like back in the day, how much respect does your family have or have accumulated over the years.

Each of the days being there, I visited my Aunt Leatrice. Even though our contact had been cut for a while, it still is as if I've been talking to her through the years. We would just talk and laugh, and she would talk about how my characteristics resemble so much of Kale (my father) before he became an alcoholic and a drug addict. We mainly discussed how we're both disappointed in Kale's position now in the black man's magnet (prison). To make a long story short of my experiences there, Leatrice was the main person to get a hold of and to see .The last day of seeing her, we talked and then she cooked some fried fish and potato salad, then we said our goodbyes for us to stay in contact. Rob, me, and Rob's mom were on our way back to Ft. Wayne. On the way back, in all that darkness, I started thinking about my experience and how it all leads into my connection with Bayo.

To conclude my side of our story, Bayo and I are two prime examples of individuals living a Hiphop Driven Lifestyle and striving to live a financially free life, and maintain freedom of thought. We barely follow traditions, because we learned that they are just programs and we aren't robots. We are highly inimitable complex human beings striving to rise to our own Self-created vision and lifestyle. It's our Divine Purpose to help others do the same. I am now 18 and he is now 24. We are Hiphop. Our Hiphop Driven Life still goes on and we still constantly learn. Our souls will never stop. Under a Divine directive from God, we must speak to the world and lead people to true freedom, by teaching them to read the trickno logy, politricks, illusions, and masquerades of false lies and deception, primarily created by media manipulation in the United States of America. This is why we call ourselves Nightjohn. We've already escaped mental slavery. We're coming back to free the minds of all those who have something in their souls that is trapped, oppressed, or restricted by ignorance. Not only are we teaching that words equal freedom, we are teaching the metaphysics of Hiphop, empathy, overcoming human suffering, and the Spiritual laws of the Universe. Our Divine Purpose is to guide others to the North Star.

"You know, freedom is all in the mind.
If your mind is free, then you will always be free."

- Shyne

"Let everybody know where you stand,
because what makes the world go 'round is the differences in people.
Everybody can't be the same or else nobody would breathe."

- Talib Kweli

I am Hiphop. My birth name is Adebayo Alabi Olorunto. I'm known in ciphers as "Bayo." I was born on August 11, 1980 at 11:22 am. Why? It's not always clear, yet I work daily to clarify my Divine Purpose. I'm a Leo, and a ferocious one at that! In the Summer of 2000, I was a long way from mastering the disciplines of martial arts, emceein', professional speaking, writing, and street entrepreneurialism. In fact, I'm still a long way from mastering all these disciplines at my highest potential. Regardless, I know I have vision and commitment and I excel at these skills daily. I know I give it my all to follow through on what I say I'm going to do. I know how to complete projects and get things done. I know I lead by example. I have small and large accomplishments in all these areas that I could boast about to anyone. I also have had failures and setbacks in all these areas that I have learned from. In life the good always comes with the bad.

However, being a person who can continually perform these professions at a highly skilled level takes vision, Purpose, and commitment. I simply work toward walking my talk every day. Such activities demand deep reservoirs of Spiritual, intellectual, and creative power. The road to success is always under construction! It wasn't just one day that I decided to do all these vocations and I made it happen like presto! Skill is not microwaveable! You gotta cultivate, harvest, and sauté skillz! I had to set up an overall Divine Purpose in my mind years ago that *"I am Hiphop. Moreover, I am a* Renaissance Hiphoppa and prosperity coach; I must communicate to as many people as possible, in the shortest amount of time possible, the potential of their Self-worth and inner wealth." This decision alone was the beginning of a re-birth and transformation that led me to pursue my livelihood, a multitude of vocations that I get excited about doing every day. All things begin in the mind first and extend from Supreme Being before manifesting into reality. If I discovered my Divine Purpose, God willing, so can you.

I grew up within a unique dichotomy. My father is a Yoruba from the Republic of Benin in West Africa. My mother is white, a traditional American woman from a Midwestern, mostly Methodist background in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. My parents met at Indiana University, later moving to Alabama, when my father became a professor at Alabama A&M University, a popular HBCU in the south. I was born in the "Dirty South" in Huntsville, Alabama and I grew up living back and forth between

Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia. I had an interesting childhood, though it got to the point that people around me never could identify or label me.

People always assumed that my effortless ability to make friends fast and get attention was because I was an "army brat" or something. I might as well have been one. After all, I moved around every summer, I never represented a city for my identity, I never used family for identity, I never had a crew or friends or a gang that had my back. I moved around too much to ever be part of a larger group. I've always had to stand up for myself. I never could be a geo type nicca, even if I wanted to. What city would I represent? What neighborhood? I lived in 3 of them on average during a year. In some strange way H.E.R. (Hiphop's Essence for Real) Light was always within me. I had a deeper knowledge of Self than most, but I was unaware of the implications for my future life in America. I was just a boy. My insight may have been the result of being an only child and spending a lot of time alone reading at young ages. My favorite television show was MacGyver, and I had read every Encyclopedia Brown novel that had existed. Maybe that's why to this day I'm so determined to find out why living in America is so fucked up. Cleverness is in my blood. It's always been hard for me to figure out why I'm so cerebral.

Since the tender age of three, I can remember being around books, reading books, writing, and running my mouth constantly (which got me into all types of drama growing up). As an intellectual professor, my father has always had books like How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, books on liberation movements, Kwame Nkrumah, Wole Soyinka, Pan-Africanism, and Yoruba literature piled up in his house. He would play King Sunny Ade records, Ebenezer Obe records, and all types of African music in the house. My mother had books on Van Gogh, Art History, Graphic art, Western Art, nature, drawing techniques, her own paintings, and her drawings all over her house. She always had a special room to work on some type of art. My parents' households were two separate distinct nesting grounds for my love of indigenous people, diversity, art, music, and culture. The differences in their personalities and lifestyles were like black and white, night and day, a paradox that has continued to resonate within me through my yin and yang energies; especially as I began to manifest Hiphop.

Of course, Hiphop was always in my heart. It simply took some years before it was released. Like many of you, it was a blue spark ready to catch flame in my soul. The first rap music I heard was in 1987 when I was given a Fat Boys tape called Crushin'. I was seven years old. I was feelin' the beatboxin', bobbin my head, and running around my neighborhood with headphones on. My favorite song at the time was "Protect Yourself/My Nuts" All I remember was that "one was black and the other was white." My dad was black and my moms was white, it made sense to me!

All I was exposed to back then was mainstream rap. I got into Kid n' Play at the age of 9; when I grew out my high top fade and started writing raps! Kid was light skinned like me and I dreamed of growin' my table top fade as high as his. Those were my early heroes as a kid. A couple years later, my Nigerian friend Tokunbo a.k.a. "Toks" and I were sneaking in to the movie House Party, where the dream to be cool rappers penetrated into our psyches. I tried to imitate Digable Planets for hours on end. I remember seeing BDP on T.V., "911 is a Joke" by Public Enemy, The Coup, and all the other videos of that era, even though I couldn't understand the political messages or rhymes at the time. I watched Boyz N the Hood when I was like 10 or 11 with my mother. She was open and loving enough to tolerate my taste in entertainment. I remember always wanting my mother to buy me new rap tapes (C.D.'s weren't out yet). She always did. Although, when I started getting shit like Scarface and Ice Cube, she'd say "Isn't that kind of violent."

Nevertheless, my mother was very understanding. She never really forced me to stop listening to rap. I'm blessed for that. Some kids weren't so fortunate. Some kids wanted more video games, I wanted more rap music. Rap music in particular has been the soundtrack to my life. I can pinpoint albums or artists for every year of my life, personal turning points, and remember exactly what I was doing or thinking during those times. Each year, as the rap game has grown, I have grown, from 1980 until today.

In elementary and middle school, I was always was geared toward S.P.A.C.E. classes. Special Education And Creative Excellence. (I guess that was my own elementary form of Zulu Nation.) Luckily, my parents had enough sense to prove to confront the teachers and tell them that my reading and writing skills were far advanced for my age. I got to leave the classroom one or two days out of the week and do strange creative activities like dissecting frogs in elementary school and doing brain teasers.

I remember walking down the hallway in West Mastin Lake Elementary School in Huntsville, AL like it was yesterday. I would go to this West Indian woman named Miss Baptiste's room. I think she gave me a sliver of hope in my own intelligence that made me believe I was smart. Or maybe her kindness just blew my head up beyond repair! It was fortunate that my initial education was not terrible, partly because of my own love of reading and curiosity. I'd like to, but I can't really give the schools credit for my development. My parents can both verify that I've been a voracious reader, in school or not. They really take the credit for having books around and helping me learn on my own. You read a lot when you are an only child, or at least I did. Even though my parents divorced when I was three, they made sure I was learning constantly whether it was in school or not. When I was a kid, I read every single night before I went to bed. I would always ask my mother to order books for me. Many kids just weren't exposed to books like I was. Most of my friends had more toys than me. I had shelves of books.

The interesting thing that happened to me as a Hiphop seedling in Huntsville was my diverse group of neighborhood friends. There were white boys on my street, black kids all over the neighborhood. We even did stupid shit like climb on top of the

elementary school, throw rocks at cars, and ride our bikes halfway across the city. I had a variety of bi-racial friends. My closest friend at the time were Luke and Larkin, whose mother was German and father was black. It was a surprising melting pot in that southern city of Huntsville, AL. I met a lot of friends playing soccer. I also played soccer with the local Boys Club. Two of my closest friends at the time were "L.J." Lawrence, African-American (later became an emcee/Hiphoppa) and "Toks" Tokunbo, who is Nigerian. All three of us were in a special class at school for creative writing and advanced reading. I played football one year with them, we had band together (I chose drums), we wrote raps, we wrote in journals, we participated in plays, we ran the halls, and basically were intelligent class clowns. We were untouchable. I used to drive my mother crazy by staying up late and doing my homework while I watched T.V. just to spite the fact that schoolwork wasn't shit to me. I never really cared about school. It was like a side gig for me.

My mother had been in and out of steady jobs since I was four or five. As a Midwestern woman alone in the old south, she didn't fit very well into the good old southern boy network. We had our share of empty Christmas' and broke down rusty cars. I got tired of asking her for money for a new color T.V. Toks was right along with me when I started my first entrepreneurial venture. We talked each other into raking yards for money. We knocked on every door in my neighborhood and every door in Toks' neighborhood. We got a lot of rejections, but we got some positive responses too and people were paying us to clean up their yards. We made some decent money. We even had a steady customer near Toks' house. He had all types of trees cut down and debris in his yard. We thought the dude was a pimp because he had this fine woman at home always in daisy dukes. We made the most money from that dude. One day when he was paying us he pulled out a fat wad of cash stacked with $50's and $100's. That's when Toks and I started getting suspicious. That dude had some type of hustle, we never could figure out whether it was drugs or pimpin'. Anyway, I saved up enough money to help my mother buy a color T.V., my own Super Nintendo, and clothes…I was livin' large at age 12.

Our genius was met with great opposition in every other class at school. We had a band teacher named Mr. Haney that hated us and made our drum playing miserable, continually putting us out in the hall. I spent half my years in middle school band in the hallway. That was the extent of my musical upbringing. Tapping my drumsticks on the hallway floor was my music class. We had boring science teachers that made us copy the glossary in textbooks during class. In Math we had so many work sheets it was sick. We had Vice Principals with very low Self-esteem and would send us to the trailer for In School Suspension, if we made them look stupid. One time, a friend and I got in trouble, and we had to write an explanation for our deviant behavior. By the time she let me out of the trailer, this teacher was telling me, "you write so well!" My father has a PhD in English, it was always in me to express my Self verbally. By the time I left that trailer, my reputation turned from bad ass kid to the next Alex Haley…at least in her imagination. We had P.E. coaches who walked like they had forks stuck up their asses. We had a shop teacher that was a Self-proclaimed red neck.

Our only oasis was that one "creative" class, Ms. Odell's class. It was her class where we took on unique projects that WE chose. WE read books that WE wanted. WE voted on the play WE wanted to act out for the school. WE had current events quizzes about topics that interested us. WE would write in journals and she would only check to see if WE wrote something …..anything. To her, she wanted to see creative effort from….WE THE PEOPLE (young people). We went on interesting trips to places around the city. Because our class was small, it didn't take much funding, and she would get us out of the school box. We saw plays all over town. We could do whatever we desired to do as long as we could prove we made the creative effort, mostly by writing about our experience with it. It was the closest thing to Democracy I've personally experienced in America. (The furthest, was the first time I ever voted in the 2000 presidential election……which was rigged).

One of my coolest memories was toward the end of Spring 1994, when I was still 13. I remember that there was a talent show at Chapman Middle School and anybody could be in it. My friends Toks, L.J., Hassan, Omar, and a few other dudes were ALL going to rap. I thought about it, but I was more shy and timid at the time. I didn't have cousins, uncles, aunts, brothers or sisters around. I was so used to being by myself and reading that being in front of all those people was terrifying to me. Of course, I wouldn't admit that shit back then, and get punked. Naw! I was more afraid of looking like a fool and mess up spitting my rhymes. We used to write rhymes to beats and follow the cadence of the rapper, but change the words. We did that to Outkast 's "Player's Ball." Nevertheless, I stayed in the back and watched my homies get into it for the contest. The night of the event, I remembered it like it was last night.

There was a local emcee, he was about 20 or so. Omar (Mase), lived near him. I remember Omar saying the dude had notebooks of lyrics piled up in his crib. That emcee came to our little cafeteria at Chapman Middle School in Huntsville, AL that night with two turntables and a microphone. His DJ, put on "I got ya Open" an instrumental by Black Moon, and this emcee started flowing over that shit. It was the first time I heard true raw east coast undaground shit. When I heard that, I was mad I never entered the contest. It was the smoothest, tightest shit I had ever heard. Then, when it was time for the contest, all my friends got up and did their thing. Some dudes fucked up. Toks got stuck and couldn't ride the beat so he was out. This dude

named Jaime -who was sweating' a girl I liked named Brooke -had a corny flow. Then, alas, our partner Hassan ripped this rhyme and had everybody hype. My nicca Hassan won!! He was always the shortest dude like me, and he was the underdog and he won!!! I'll never forget him walking around that night with the cash prize envelope in his back pocket dancing with all the girls who thought he was the shit because he won. That was Hiphop. Hiphop came to me, made love to me, and ran away. I wanted to possess Hiphop ever since then…yet there were many rivers to cross before I could embrace H.E.R.

Unfortunately my middle school years ended abruptly. I had to move to Radford, Virginia to live with my father, the first time I had ever lived with my father for an extended period of time. My mother had always had difficulties with money, being discriminated against as a northerner in the "old south." She had trouble getting jobs and planned on moving away to Tennessee for a better position as an elementary art teacher. I knew she would finally be happy there, and I was getting toward that age of almost being out of control.

On my last day of middle school, I came to school with my head shaved drawing attention to myself (I've always cut my own hair…only that time I fucked it up by mistake and had to shave it). I came late to shop class a few minutes late after talking to a girl and the teacher told me, "Go to the office!!" I told him, "That's bullshit!" Thirty minutes later I was expelled on my last day of middle school. They had enough of me and simply told my mother to come get me. I never got to chill on my last day with all my friends I was leaving behind before I went to Virginia to live with my father. I remember how my mom made me come home and cut the grass in the hot spring sun. I remember vividly thinking "That's O.K. I'm gonna be famous one day and everybody will see me." Being banished from my friends that day, my last day before I had to move to the small town of Radford, always left a bitter taste in my mouth toward so called authority figures.

When I started High School It was the Fall of 1994. Illmatic had already come out. I remember watchin' Notorious B.I.G.'s "Juicy" video on T.V. in September, it was the theme at that time, and Bone Thugs N Harmony too. High School was the first time I lived with my father for more than a few months. I all of a sudden changed my lifestyle and got more serious. I had to change, he was more strict than my moms. There were only 40 black people in my high school, which only consisted of 400 students. It entered some of the most agonizing years of my life. Radford, VA (pop. 14,000), the two exit town fifteen minutes away from Virginia Tech was like a black hole. There as nothing there except for Radford University and a park or two. There was never anything to do. Despite always being restless and a bit of a joker in school, I was always able to pull off good grades.

Growing up in an African household, my sport of choice was soccer. Most of my high school years were spent trying to be the next Pele. I put quite a bit of effort into being a great athlete because the only other thing kids had to do in that small town was have sexual orgies, do drugs, and get drunk.

Thankfully, I only had to fight once to gain respect. This nicca named E.J. was the hot shot running back on the football team. His girl was all over me, and I didn't stop her advances. Next thing I know, I had a new enemy. At the time, my closest friend was John, a basketball fanatic. One time we were out on the court, and niccas showed up to start shit. This little nicca named Dwayne was the mouthpiece. I talked shit back, next thing I know, we walkin' to a secluded park. E.J. was a football player, beefy and bigger than me. We faced each other and "Whhap!!" he knocked me in the temple before I saw it comin'!! I hit the concrete hard, it scraped my whole back up. By then, older niccas came out. They had money. This one dude took me aside and was like, "I got money on you, don't give up, don't let up on him."

E.J. wanted to make a fool of me, and started getting cocky and playing to the crowd. I noticed a bicycle on the court. So I circled around, backed him up until it was out of his sight, and "Whaamm!" I hit him right in his mouth and he tripped and got cut on the bike. To make a long story short, we fought for almost an hour. Thank God E.J. had asthma, and I simply had more endurance. By the time it was over, he gave up. I kicked him in the ass and spit on him. The older niccas snatched his numerous gold chains, gave me $10 and it was over. I rode my bike home, sickly and out of breath, I just got in the shower. I didn't want my father to worry. To this day, it trips me out that instead of breaking us up, these older dudes had us fight like dogs.

There were also kids getting caught up in the same violence that occurs in large cities. Crack sales. Black folks on the other side of the tracks. Alcoholics. There were kids on trial, kids locked up, kids running from the law. Young black females pregnant everywhere and young niccas getting locked up was the norm rather than the exception. By the time we calculate the 40 black people that went to my high school on average each year, it dwindled down to about 2-4 who actually graduated and did something more productive in life, like college or a decent job. A lot of the few black dudes I went to school eventually got locked up in one way or another. It's sad that even in a small town the same genocide and oppression is occurring. The mind control, the pattern kids followed to portray the sex and violence in movie, radios, and T.V. is the real mind control. That's the real crime against humanity.

Unfortunately, our initial dreams don't always work out the way we want. I had moved in with my father at the age of fourteen to this small town where soccer was a new vocabulary word for people, coaching was poor, every other person was named "Jim Bob," football was like religion, and opportunities to develop the best soccer skills were limited. I just knew I was going to be the next Romario, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos, or J.J. Okocha despite my circumstances. Jogo Bonito (Playing

Beautifully) is in my blood. It doesn't matter what game I'm in, Jogo Bonito is my essence. My moves are always beautiful regardless of what I do. To this day I still have all the tapes from World Cups 1994-2002. My earliest and loftiest dream was to be a professional soccer player.

For some reason, probably the influence of my father and mother (two very stubborn people), I always developed a drive for being somebody. I always wanted to do something special in the world, or make a difference in one way or another. When things didn't go the way I wanted in life, I just kept trying harder to be better in whatever way. When my soccer plans weren't working, I found a way to get attention out of school and grades. In High School, I played all the politics and knew everybody, had top grades, stayed popular, and had girlfriends. I was even a populist. In fact, I have always been a populist and always will be. I always dipped into books my father had in the house, mostly books about Africa. My friends and I would read up on the Black Panthers, Malcolm X, and we were all Hiphop heads. Two of my closest friends were Shawn (a true B-Boy and future producer) and Cortez (a true street entrepreneur). My father being an English professor, and my mother being a graphic artist and teacher, I never could escape the pressure to get formal education. (Later, I found out I needed to escape mis-education!)

When it came time for me to leave high school behind and enter college, Hiphop was right there with me, growing and evolving. In the fall of 1998, I left for college right around the time P.Diddy and Mase were all over T.V. (little did I know, we would all be facing moments of Truth as the 20th Century came to a screeching halt). Jay-Z was adding fuel to the fire, and the Hot Boys and Master P had everybody in awe. Russell Simmons was steadily expanding his ventures. I graduated from high school in the Spring of 1998 and the end of the 90's, also known as the Platinum (Ice) age of Hiphop, was coming to an end. All the iced out jewelry was still in, and the Dirty South was representin' more powerful than ever. Artists from the South were coming out left and right.

In a way, I wasn't able to equate my love for Hiphop with me fully being Hiphop at the time. I had albums of artists like Common, Gangstarr, KRS-ONE, Outkast, Nas, Biggie, Tupac etc. I identified with all these artists. However, there were certain elements of their expression I think that were over my head, beyond my current level of experience or ability to take in new knowledge. I hadn't written rhymes in years since my middle school days. Ever since I left middle school and my closest friends, I lost that outlet to channel my creative energy. It's almost like I had cut off my whole right brain, and was stagnating in that little town. My father had me thinking I needed to be more focused on school and traditional American success. The typical African immigrant's formula for success has been for their child to focus mainly on school, get a High GPA + High SAT + Top College = Life long success. Now that I look back, the more I learned in high school, the more I was forced to suppress my right brain thinking, and the more I lost my knowledge of Self.

Nevertheless, I continued to listen to Hiphop. Emcees always had some fresh perspective on the world. I always loved lyrics and always will. New knowledge is always difficult to accept. Sometimes it is shocking and seems to alarm listeners or observers. At times, I had questions, there was just no one to explain the answers fully. It wasn't like I had Muslims or Rastas on every block shouting "Free the Mind." For me it simply didn't register. These emcees were giving me new knowledge, but I was still living at home, and had not been faced with enough situations in American society to embrace the knowledge. I had knowledge but not wisdom. I would later read in KRS-ONE's Ruminations, that knowledge is from our information gathering and reading, while wisdom is from our own personal experiences and people we meet.

It wasn't until my senior year in high school that I started dealing with the United States and it's archaic system of higher education and thinking about my future employment and life vocation. Why do we call the government a "system," or high-ranking individuals the "government" I would ask myself? Why do many people with less power in the U.S. use these terms? How else are we supposed to describe the greedy elite or sometimes racist mind control we face??

Please excuse my use of the word "system" or "government" or "college" in general throughout this book. I use these terms sometimes making it seem like I'm pointing a finger at some large machine. I know that there are some systems and colleges that are iconoclasts. We all know when it's all said and done in our society, we are all just people. We just have many people who play different roles, different games, and use different resources, while standing on different sides of the law. Some people simply wield more power than others. I speak primarily for the group of people who have less power and resources. Part of my own Divine Purpose is to uplift people who feel otherwise powerless.

The Spring of 1998 was my senior year in high school, I was on top of the world. I had all the awards, leadership positions, all the accolades, grades, and achievement, etc. After applying to about 7 top ranking universities, I was accepted to U.N.C. Chapel Hill, the University of Michigan, University of Maryland, and Vanderbilt University. I was rejected by Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, and Northwestern. Deep in my Hiphop psyche, I knew I needed to be around more arts, ethnic people, culture, and thrive in an urban metropolitan area, getting me back to the essence of what I've always been about.

The best choice for me according to my Divine Purpose (if I had an inkling what that was at the time), would have been the University of Maryland. Unfortunately, when I was 17, I didn't have great Hiphop books like the one you are holding now! In fact, Hiphop was also still barely coming into it's own knowledge of itself. KRS had only founded the Temple of Hiphop two years

prior! I was offered a $19,000 a year grant by Vanderbilt University, with work study, outside scholarships, and some financial support from family. I hopped on that and took it!

At the time, Vanderbilt tuition was around $32,000 a year. My mother would gasp when I told her, my father thought it was possible with…hard work. I knew I was the type to do anything I put my mind to and get the money I needed to go. I've never been the type to let many things get in my way. It was still a hefty price tag for the "Harvard of the South." Some people don't even make $32,000 in a year. Anytime I let the name Vanderbilt University roll of my lips to describe where I was going to college, people would take two steps back, like "Wow, that's a really prestigious school, but it's so expensive!! How are you going to make it financially?" I would then say, as if I were a paid actor, "Yeah, and I have a grant, scholarships, and work study to make it all work out fine!" I felt like I was going places, like I was into big things. People always gave me all types of praise and attention for being so smart and getting into an excellent school. Friends, women, family, strangers, neighbors, teammates all congratulated me on being so determined and making it to a school ranked in the top 20 in the nation. I became a legend in my own mind for real. My Ego was inflated and it was too late, I was gassed up and simultaneously being rocked to sleep. It's all so agonizingly deep.

My father was obviously proud and loved to talk about it to his academia colleagues and associates. "Yeah, Bayo will be attending Vanderbilt in the fall!" He was living vicariously through me. What a terrible way we had been approaching life…..in ignorance. We were blind. We couldn't see. I was not being "let in or accepted." I was being lured in and tempted. I was 17 years old when I graduated high school and was accepted to Vanderbilt University. I didn't turn 18 until August 11, 1998. I was young, gifted, and black, but had not discovered my life's Divine Purpose. I had not discovered principles like the ones you will find in this book. I was not taken through a thought process to awaken my genius and spark my Divine Purpose as a conscious African man living in racist America. This type of initiation process is the essence of being an African. So often, in Western society, through it's brainwashing by institutions, we are robbed us of this initiation. If we knew our own power we would take over the entire government and ultimately the world.

As a result, the outward approval and praises I got for being accepted to that particular institution were clouding the Truth and R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. about my Self. I had no direction in life. I was following the set patterns of the matrix. I was sold a false perception of education in America and I had bought it. To Vanderbilt and other universities, I was just another minority tally mark to chalk up so they can say they are a diverse campus. America has been America since the slave days. What else should we expect? I did not realize that colleges were representing business as usual in the United States.

I was accepted on a grant for minorities. There was no other way for my family to afford tuition at such a high priced college institution like Vanderbilt University, without financial aid. From the beginning, I didn't realize that, psychologically, I was placed at a mental handicap. When an institution says that they will accept you because you are a minority and many ethnic people like you don't normally make it to college, you are being used as a pawn. They are saying, "Welcome Bayo, we'd love to assimilate and brainwash you at your own expense?!" They make you think it's your grades and your entrance exam scores, when really they just have a quota of ethnic people to bring on campus. When you go to a university in America, you cannot go in hopes of discovering yourself. Later, I found that Carter G. Woodson was famous for teaching us that in The Mis-Education of the Negro. It's too bad no one taught me before I entertained the thought of college. If you take this finding yourself approach in American universities and colleges, you will be brainwashed and manipulated into believing that you are inferior, especially on a predominantly white campus. You must go to college with a full and comprehensive knowledge of your Self, including life vision, Purpose, goals, strategies, and tactical blueprints. Otherwise, don't go at all.

You must have knowledge of Self as you enter college. Your role in college should be to contribute to larger intellectual discussions. You should be pouring your Self-knowledge into the college pool of thought rather than obtaining your Self-knowledge from the college pool of thought. As the 20th Century closed, and the 21st Century began, I found myself just another young isolated black male with sub-par grades trying to get through the bureaucracy of an elitist private university in the Old South. I had followed many of the disciplines that I thought were necessary to prepare for my future. I was lost. Always happy to be alive, happy to be around people, happy to have new experiences, but when it came to direction; I was lost. There were many fallacies I saw and questions that remained unanswered.

In my mind, as a freshman, I felt even making it in the door of Vanderbilt University was a major accomplishment. Mentally, I had been trained to think that the key to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in America was through traditional school, college, and traditional careers like law, medicine, and engineering alone. My father fought his own battles to be educated when he was in the rural parts of the Republic of Benin and Nigeria. He immigrated to the United States in 1972.

He had to accept the belief that American education was essential to success in life. It was the only way he made it to America. It was his survival. He obtained a Ph.D. in English from Indiana University, but he faced countless bouts of racism on his own journey from American professors. When I was older, my cousin William told me that a professor at Indiana University told my father to his face that my dad would never make it in America because he was African and had an accent. This was out

of the lips of a man responsible for evaluating my father's work to obtain a Masters Degree?!! Come on man. I don't care what type of degree's we're getting from these perverted universities, who's really the master when we let them evaluate us like that?

Later, my older cousin William from Nigeria was indoctrinated trying to navigate similar situations, graduating from Ohio S tate, and going on to become a pharmacist. Going to medical school at the University of Cincinnati, and now a surgeon at the University of Louisville residency program. These are decent professions, as long as they fit a person's Divine Purpose. They never fit mine, and to this day I think these professions have distorted the true African nature and Divine Purpose of my father and cousin.

Despite my disagreements with my family members, I have always been loyal to my family. I have attempted to reconcile my differences with them. I represent my name with honor. As a young black male, these were the role models raising me. In Afri can families, we have a deep sense of commitment, community, and contribution to help one another succeed. It's too bad we sometimes don't know the right objectives which would bring us true fulfillment. It's like we are helping each other succeed…but at the wrong things! It hurts to see my family blinded to the ways of America's never ending hustlin' scheme and pimp game.

When I was failing math in high school, it was my cousin William who tried to teach me Calculus and he even spent hours coaching me personally with Chemistry when I had holiday breaks from Vanderbilt. He's brilliant. The man is now a cardiac surgeon. I still didn't get it. It didn't help much, but I kept trying to rise to his level in mathematical and scientific intelligence. Such efforts of trying to be what I am not, always made me feel like I was inadequate in he and my father's eyes. They somehow viewed my efforts as a character flaw I had, and they had no reservations in telling me I needed to improve.

In essence, according to them, there was no other choice for my future success in America besides going to law school, medical school, or business school. I have a big mouth, so they didn't hear the end of my talk about wealth being inside an individual, about Self-empowerment. They suggested I try educational administration, pharmacy, medicine, accounting and law so I would have a guaranteed job when I get out of school. If it was an American mainstream establishment, my father and older cousin thought it would be great for me so I could make enough money. Out of one side of their mouths, they suggested these professions, and on the other side they would talk about how scandalous and racist our so called black political leaders are.

In my family, I was steadily pumped with passionate commentary about irresponsible athletes in the N.B.A., or black entertainers, the stupidity of the average American, and the corruption of African countries. I had no choice but to be a somewhat conscious thinker. I was left disappointed and confused by both my father and cousin as I became a man. Nevertheless, I trusted them to guide me. As black people we should all forgive our parents and family for doing the best they can with the racist and elitist America they've been forced to survive in. Our elders want us all to succeed. We just need to be firm with them about our strategies and tactics being designed for this time and era.

One time, in high school, I mentioned I wanted to be a sociology major. My father looked at me like he had just swallowed a raw onion! He suggested that since I was undecided I should "Just do pre-medicine to be on the safe side!!" My family looked at my desires for a social life, pursuing things I love, and passion as extras. They basically inferred that I was soft and not determined or disciplined enough to finish the pre-med curriculum I was pursuing. They were trying to infer that I was not as mentally tough as them because they grew up in the sweltering heat of rural Africa near the equator, and they know hardship. Give me a break. How wrong they were. It's sad, but I have met other young people from Yoruba families, and other African families with the same useless ideologies perpetuated to youth. My heart goes out to these young people who are bound by mis-education and inadequate schooling. I encourage them to break free, stand up to ignorant parents, and be who you want to be. Later, my father and cousin would pay for their mis-education, mainly by my absence from their lives. The sad part is that the elitists like to see black families divided, especially the bond between an African father and son. The evil they use to cause this separation is the almighty dollar bill. Money strained our family.

Because my father lived in a small, secluded town, I didn't have those opportunities to be bold about what I loved to do. I was weaker than these two influential African men in my life. They had more years of brainwashing, more superficial results, decent J-O-B's, and money. I was coming from a Hiphop perspective, but didn't even know I was Hiphop yet! Hell, Hiphop didn 't even know it was Hiphop yet! When I was sixteen, Tupac was killed in September. Biggie was killed the next year in March 1997. Hiphop was still growing and people all around me thought it was a mindless music of hopeless, helpless criminals. Any time I brought up Hiphop ideas around my family, it was mocked, scorned, ridiculed, and joked about. The African men in my life never thought that Hiphop was anything other flashy music videos, hoes, fancy jewelry, beef between thugs, and baggy clothes. Little did they know, the emcees I was listening to were slowly helping me form my strategies for survival in America, a worldview that would provide the insight for me to thrive and prosper. Only now that I look back do I realize that it was Hiphop which caused me to question my family's hypocrisy. I still respect my father

This was the mis-education of Bayo. I just didn't have any other outlets to explore my potentials in the small towns where I lived in high school (Clarksville, TN and Radford, VA), and thus my many inborn talents were suppressed. Doubly painful was

the basic oppression of America's pimp game, which leaves young gifted overly right brained creative black youth like myself at the bottom of the barrel. Case closed. I was secluded from a lot of the influences of urban life. Maybe it was a blessing in disguise. Maybe my seclusion kept me out of trouble and most of all, alive! This message maybe wouldn't have made it to you without my seclusion, suppression, and oppression in rural America. Peace to the God Rakim: "It ain't where ya from it's where ya at!" I began developing an intrapersonal intelligence (Self-knowledge) that was growing but not strong enough to arouse my personal power at the time. We all have our own winding path. I knew there were all types of vocations in arts and so forth that I could try. I just didn't know when I would ever get a chance to live my life to the fullest and learn from people in these art forms. I was in university towns. It seemed like I had already gone to college. When I was eighteen, my friend Shawn and I were hanging out at Radford University and Virginia Tech in Blacksburg picking up college women!

However, I had no chance to participate in the arts or music, or get my own personal experiences with Self-expression. For some people, college really is the only key to fulfillment. For me, it was the only answer to escape the rural small town I lived in. It was my only ticket to a life with more possibility. For many others, college is not the key at all. Nonetheless, I know that for everybody the key is Divine Purpose. Having been accepted to several high ranking universities in America, I was confronted for the first time with heavy decisions that could lead to varying outcomes in my life. I was dealing with change, the unknown, and uncertainty. I was doing so without knowing my Divine Purpose, a serious mistake.

I truly believed, in my heart at the time, that the choice I made for college would provide new opportunities and give me new pathways toward wealth and happiness. What I didn't know was that my lack of vision, Purpose, and goal setting was going to smack me in the face with a rude awakening in the cold competitive business of college. As young people nowadays, we must understand that the idea of partying now and working later will fuck us up. Period. No matter how we sugar coat the idea of youthful partying, we have to create our life plan at a young age, preferably around puberty, discover our unique, gifts, talents and Purpose and make decisions about how we should leave home. This should be done as early as possible for young Hiphop children. Otherwise, we will grow up to be Uncle Toms, House Niccas, and Sharecroppers at institutions that discredit our Self worth and culture. Being focused as a young person doesn't necessarily mean we have to follow the traditions of our narrow-minded family or friends. It does mean you have to find out what your dream is and pursue it with relentless tenacity despite what anyone says.

If you don't have a plan for yourself, there are plenty of hustlers and pimps who have a plan for you, and their plans are probably not in your best interest. If this means dropping out of totalitarian high schools for home schooling or unschooling, so be it. Do you! Do whatever you have to do, but don't let parents, teachers, or administrators prevent you from dreaming and thinking big. If they say you will fail or will not make it, call The O.L.O.R.U.N. Companies and put them on the phone with me! You'll never hear a peep from those cowardly teachers and so called authorities again! I would never want anyone to have to stumble through the prime of their life like I did. From the ages of seventeen through twenty four, I suffered some painful experiences, financially, mentally, physically, and Spiritually, simply because I was lured into the traps of America's higher education system.

We must learn to make decisions in reference to our true Self. I don't blame anyone for my hardships or challenges. There was a point in time when I was angry, but now I realize it was really no one's fault. My parents, like millions of other immig rant parents or parents born and raised in America for that matter, put way too much faith in an American educational system that is archaic, problematic, and money driven. They are clueless as to how corrupt the educational system really is. We must overstand that as young visionaries, we are valuable human beings; Kings and Queens and not pawns. I learned some valuable lessons about pimp game in my first years at Vanderbilt.

During my freshman year in Vanderbilt' Branscomb Quadrangle, there was an elderly black man named Mr. Willie on my hall, on the third floor of Branscomb Quad, a co-ed dorm for freshmen. Mr. Willie was a nice man around 60 or so, maybe older. He just wasn't very bright. He almost reminded me of a minstrel character. He was always cheesin'. He only had a few teeth, but I don't think I ever saw him frown. Sometimes the simple man has simple happiness. I had a roommate who regularly got drunk and partied on the weekends. There was so much crude drunken behavior in my hall, I never could concentrate my whole first semester of college. Add the abundance of new females in my life, and it was over…..I was receiving F's and D's in most of my courses. The bathrooms were always a disgusting mess in my dorm. Sometimes it made me sick to use the restroom or take a shower. These spoiled, so called rich kids, were literally trying to emulate the movie Animal House, while preparing for their fraternity and sorority "rush." I kid you not, there was a fat kid on our hall they called Flounder, and some party animals had the official C-O-L-L-E-G-E sweater.

Most of these kids were from wealthy families, some of their parents even owned businesses, so it surprised me that they would throw food around in the halls, clog up bathroom sinks with numerous slimy objects, and vomit all over stalls after getting drunk on the weekends. Guess who would come every day and clean it up: Mr. Willie. I eventually moved out of the room away from my roommate after he pissed all over his bed the night before and left his mattress in the middle of our floor for 24 hours.

Sickened to my last nerve, later that day, I told my roommate I was moving to a single room in Kissam Quad. I had heard that most of the black people had single rooms. Many black students just knew they couldn't deal with white roommates. It's terrible, but it's the Truth. We nicknamed the Kissam dorms "Section 8." How is that, for the Self-image of America's brown youth in higher education?! This is a true story. That's how we joked around. It's sad, but it's true. We were marginalizing ourselves without even knowing it. It wasn't a bad idea. It was better than me living with a roommate who had socks, candy rappers, used condoms, and pizza boxes on the floor. I'd rather be clean in "Section 8" than dirty in the penthouse.

To this day, I never have forgotten Mr. Willie who cleaned up after those pigs. My Spirit lives on for people like Mr. Willie, people who never have had the blessing or opportunity to see what I saw in that situation. He always was nice to me, and I always apologized to him for the behavior of my classmates. I talked to him when no one else did just so he knew there were still compassionate civilized human beings in the world.

I would even see only black workers (servants) painting the grass for graduation! Yes indeed, at Vanderbilt University, they have the grass painted dark green if it is not green enough in the Spring. My friend Steve and I always thought that was symbolic about what a façade this university really represented. My Purpose in writing all this is not to only attack Vanderbilt (but don't get it twisted, I have plenty of beef with Vandy). It might be wise to avoid the school as your college choice. That's just my opinion. I'm revealing these Truths because it is important for me to reveal my mind state, my lack of Purpose, and my unhappiness which overwhelmed me during that period of my life. An emptiness that would begin to change, one day at a time…

My personal experiences have given me a unique view of the world. Coupled with my fiery Leo attitude, my love of knowledge, and being a Hiphoppa, I represent a very eclectic mentality, I represent the thinking man, the creative man, the conscious emcee, and the mastermind. I grew up reading stories like the Tortoise and the Hare, Yoruba parables about wisdom and cleverness. I've always been wise and clever. I've always lived as if I was David facing Goliath. I have always been the smallest soccer player, the smallest dude on the block, the underdog. It is my heart and Lion-like courage that has helped me preserve my Self thus far. In fact, it is my cleverness that prevented me from fully adapting to the popular culture's version of college life and a corporate way of life that would not have been in alignment with my Divine Purpose. Cleverness was Hiphop's gift to me.

It was not that I didn't have any stimulation in Vanderbilt's university environment. I found plenty of stimulation ….with beautiful females from cities all over the country! I found joy in entertaining these beautiful young women at parties. In fact I had more results in being a romancer than I did when I disciplined myself to study, only to be slapped in the face with another F or D on an exam after all my discipline.

All these young women must have thought I was a player. I was always very private on campus. It wasn't intentional, but it incidentally added to my mystique. I guess it was my charm and charisma. I never look back with regrets and say that I wasn't focused at my studies, because I was. Yet, I still didn't know much about the Goddess of civilization, the power of Self-creation, or the Tao of sexology! I was ignorant and uninformed. I lacked knowledge of Self. That was the deeper rooted issue. I had too much allegiance to right and exact knowledge, than to buy the propaganda and lies being perpetuated on the campus of Vanderbilt. I was too observant to follow blindly. I hung out with seniors. I saw through a lot of bullshit, and when campus issues didn't make sense, I questioned them. I was also curious too. I never let the hypocrisy I saw in front of me pass me by without some doubts and re-evaluation. When I wasn't getting the Truth in class, I just did what any young man did, I explored the Truth in the night life, making friends, meeting all types of people, and observation.

I was very outgoing in those years as I've always been. My observation of people is probably more keen than many. It was the people I met while at Vanderbilt that allowed me to question my life Purpose, learn and grow. These were people I met and I initiated interaction with. I take full credit for all the individuals' lives I touched and those who touched mine. It wasn't the university which fostered my social life. These interactions happened despite the racism prevalent on campus. It was the Hiphop drive within me that had me dedicated to interpersonal exploration. I do not care much for the institution and establishment named Vanderbilt University. As a matter of fact, I wouldn't be too upset if its buildings burned to the ground in a black flaky ash. However, I do respect people who did at one point, and maybe still are, making an honest respectable living within that corrupt system.

Sheila Smith-McKoy was the first professor who attempted to help me gain direction. Bless her heart. I was always grateful for her advice. She taught Afro-Caribbean Women's literature at the time I was a freshman in the Fall of 1998. Since then, I know of one book she's written entitled, When Whites Riot: Writing Race and Violence in American and South African Culture. Sheila could not direct me to the Truth, but she at least helped me see a few Truths. She was the first person who helped me explore the martial art of Capoeira. She brought Mustafa Abdul-Aleem of African Culture University to campus and they did a demonstration.

I had heard about Capoeira before, but that was my first time seeing Capoeira in person. I didn't know much about the Temple of Hiphop at the time, but I knew that b-boy's breakin' seemed to be just like Capoeira. I fell in love with Capoeira. She

even gave me a ride in her own car when I wanted to go to the Roda. She would encourage me to meet her when guest speakers would come in to The Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center (the little bitty house reserved for a few black people on campus to socialize). What a joke! Nevertheless, I remember meeting Anthony Apia, a professor from Harvard University and joining in a round table discussion about race and identity. I don't remember what he and I talked about. I'm sure my questions were quite superficial. I do remember him being quite candid, at least he must have answered them honestly.

There was also a time Sheila urged me to come hear Wole Soyinka speak at the Black Cultural Center. I'll never forget that day. I had been seeing Soyinka's revolutionary books on my father's shelves since I was three years old. His trademark gray afro has been imprinted permanently in my mind. I guess I thought he was supposed to be a leader and hero for Africans. Man, after the speech I walked up to this dude to introduce myself. Sheila was standing right next to me. He looked at me with his normal cold expression. I was like, "I'm Bayo….Bayo Olorounto. I'm Yoruba, but I've never been back to Benin, I was born here in the U.S."

This so called leader looked at me like with a bitter face and said, "I can tell, you can't even pronounce your last name." Sheila tried to laugh to lighten the insult. He was serious. I was thinking in my mind, "Who the fuck does he think he is?" I was ashamed that I knew little to nothing about my own Yoruba culture, but still, did he have to insult me like that? He was probably reacting to my light skin as well. I asked him a question about improving Nigerian and Benin roads. He answered it briefly before he shook me off, but I know one day his cold shoulder approach will come back to haunt him through Karma. I would never follow the lead of a man with a personality like that.

There were racist professors at Vanderbilt as well. They shall remain nameless in our book. If you want to know who they are, just go to the Rand cafeteria around lunchtime. There is always a big coon picnic at noon. The coon picnic is the section where all the black people sit, segregated from everyone else; and black students can list all the racist professors within one minute. To this day, I get queasy when I think about all the lunches I had in what seemed to be apartheid-like segregation. One black professor I tried to get help from to combat the conspiracy -that I was doomed to failure at a predominantly white university -was Jonathan Farley.

According to Vanderbilt's website: "Dr. Farley is the 2004 recipient of the Harvard Foundation's Distinguished Scientist Award, a medal presented on behalf of the president of Harvard University for "outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of mathematics." In 2001-2002, Dr. Farley was a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar to the United Kingdom. He was one of only four Americans to win this award. Dr. Farley graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University in 1991 with the second-highest grade point average in his graduating class. He obtained his doctorate in mathematics from Oxford University in 1995, after winning Oxford's highest mathematics awards, the Senior Mathematical Prize and Johnson Prize, in 1994. He then held a post-doctoral fellowship at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley, California from 1995 to 1997. The City of Cambridge, Massachusetts declared March 19, 2004 to be "Dr. Jonathan David Farley Day." Hey, I thought, he should be smart enough to help guide me. How wrong I was.

Yo, when I was a freshman in 1998, I went to this guy's seminar on "How to Get Straight A's in College." This man is a militant mathematician. Don't get me wrong. He has a place in the movement. He has what we call extreme logical-mathematical intelligence. I listened to what he had to say. He advocated a form of discipline that bordered on surgical procedures. I couldn't get with it. He must have some love for black people. He was kind and thoughtful. However, something was missing for he and I to connect…personality. There was no way he could help me. I had never been a math person. I was just another freshman to him. He was missing some of the other interpersonal qualities I needed in a mentor, like a social life, and humor. I would see him, and there was no way for us to build or communicate on a realistic level. It wasn't like he listened to Tupac and Outkast. As time was ticking, I was getting more and more D's and F's. My days at Vanderbilt were numbered. I was running out of black mentors on campus!!

One man, who helped me during my sophomore year, was Dr. Jimmie L. Franklin. He has written two books about African-American history in Oklahoma and another on prohibition in Oklahoma. The books are: *Journey Toward Hope: A History of Blacks in Oklahoma; The Blacks in Oklahoma; and Born Sober: Prohibition in Oklahoma, 1907-1959.* He also wrote a book on Richard Arrington Jr., the first African-American mayor of Birmingham. The book is titled *Back to Birmingham: Richard Arrington, Jr., and his Times*. I was a sophomore when I took Franklin's class. I was so deep in brainwashing that there was not much I could do to change at the time. I appreciated his objective views of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Dubois. I learned more about Carter G. Woodson and Fredrick Douglas in Franklin's class. He taught me a few lessons about being a man and being determined about education. Overall, Jimmie L. taught me a lot about not letting ignorance hold you back as a black man and to always seek accurate facts. My only challenge was that his was one class, one aspect, and my issues to survive academically were too complex, too deep.

Of all the people I met, none stand out in my mind more than Matthew. He was an underground emcee, and a graduate

student at the divinity school. I would have to do assignments sometimes in the library, and he worked behind the desk. He was always writing rhymes or reading some deep books. Sometimes we would stop and talk, and just build. He had dreadlocks, he produced his own beats, and constantly wrote poetry. It never occurred to me to get into music. I can't describe the feeling. It's like thinking you are permanently blind, when really your eyes are closed and you just have to re-learn how to open them. It felt like even though I needed to see the Light, I couldn't get the big picture.

He was the first person I could honestly tell that I was writing poetry in my spare time. He was always real. He was always searching himself. He told me about how he started writing lyrics. I remember when he said, "Man, it was a few thoughts here and a few words there. Next thing I knew it became lines, then songs." I think he planted a seed in my mind that I too could rhyme. Every time we met on campus we spoke on deep shit. We always discussed Hiphop. I was a confused conflicted person at that time. I was tormented, almost tortured by my low G.P.A. and lack of Purpose. I felt more sane when we would link up mentally. After I left, we kept brief contact, but I remember him telling me later that he was going to teach at Fisk University. Not too long after moving to Maryland in 2002, I lost contact with him.

I know many brothas and sistas who did not have knowledge of self in college. My knowledge of Self was not as weak. as many others, yet it was still incomplete! Talk about a coon picnic. We tried everything to assimilate on the campus of Vanderbilt University: fraternities, sororities, sports, social clubs, academic clubs etc. If you do not have a liberation guide like this book to help you identify your Purpose, you will be going in circles in life, especially if your exposure to a variety of experiences was limited.

In the Summer of 2000, I was 19, turning 20 in August. A.K. turned 14 in July. I had gone through a lot of major changes in my college career. I began as a pre-med major (a huge mistake), I switched to economics after reading a copy of "Why Should White Guys Have All The Fun," an autobiography of Reginald Lewis, the first African-American to own a billion dollar business (He was a Kappa too and my decision making was still horribly flawed!) I thought if he could do it, I could do it! Economics professors mentally kicked my ass too! Later I found out that I would have to unlearn my whole definition of success.

Anyhow, I never could get a solid internship with a corporation or business in corporate America during the summers. My grades were too low. I worked at places like Sears and Wal-Mart for $5 to $6 an hour in the summers between my freshman and sophomore years. At the time, I stayed with my mother. I was alone a lot during the summers. I ended up reading close to a hundred books on wealth and achievement because I was facing the biggest failures in my life. I was also having a severe internal struggle with going to school with feelings of lack and poverty. I had no car. I was barely getting by financially, while young students of wealthy families at Vanderbilt were pulling up in Mercedes, Lexus', and Benzes. I didn't envy them for that, but it did weigh on my Spirit.

I remember when I had a math class with Donna Summers' daughter, Brooklyn Sudano. At the time, Brooklyn didn't know I knew about her mother. I had just watched a VH-1 special on Donna Summers' the night before our first math class. I wanted to respect her privacy, so I didn't tell her I knew. I remember some conversations we had. She seemed cool and I thought she was beautiful. After a while though, our conversations were awkward. I knew there was too much division with financial status and social circles. Plus, a man has no game as a lost soul. Even worse, this was the type of woman I thought was ideal for me! I think she ended up dating the same old stereotypical "successful guys" like basketball and football players. Talk about Self-hate, and grasping at mainstream ideals, I was trippin'. I found out later, in 2003-2004, that she became an actress in a T.V. sitcom on ABC called My Wife and Kids. That's not my reality.

However, that is how American mainstream pop culture is, artificial, like a T.V. show on UPN or WB. It's fantasy. That's exactly how Vanderbilt's black sub-culture was as well. There were also kids who's parents owned professional baseball teams, Saudi, Asian, and Indian kids whose parents were international business men and women. I would see all these kids blowing money and partying. I used to wonder why everything on that campus seemed like it was shallow, like people weren't really being themselves. Back then, I was confused about class division in America. Now I overstand that there is two sides of America's coin: mainstream and undaground. You see this same dichotomy in rap music, books, the internet, and even film. There is always an undaground pool of thought and I was a fish out of water.

I would sometimes spend countless hours on sunny weekends in stuffy libraries studying Biology, Calculus, or Chemistry, only to fail the test the next week. I would often wonder why the Central Library was empty all the time. Was I an oddball for actually studying!? I was working hard and felt like I was spinning my wheels. On top of my turmoil, I would have to go to lunch and see only black people serve me. I would see a segregated population in the dining hall that looked like the 60's in Montgomery, Alabama. I would walk to class and see only black people picking up trash. There were more black people serving food at lunch than were in my classes. I felt like I had gone back in time to slave days. I also felt like an Uncle Tom and a sell out for even learning in such a university system. I knew I wasn't a house nicca in my heart, but I felt like one every day. That is a debilitating feeling, especially when it comes to negotiating your Self-worth to get grades. It was an uphill battle.

Do not feel like a failure if you have not succeeded in college. When I was a freshman, sophomore, and junior at

Vanderbilt University, each year there were brothas and sistas I was cool with at the beginning of the year that I didn't see at the end. They either transferred to a more affordable school or dropped out all together. I was often one of two or four black people in large lecture halls that had classes of up to 100 people. It was like being in a war and my comrades were dropping like flies. I was constantly outnumbered, not only as a young black man, but as a black person. Often there were more young black women on campus than black males.

At one point, I sought out black Greek (a true oxymoron) fraternities thinking their organizations would be a way for me as a young black man to gain community and brotherhood on a predominantly white campus. By my own desire to be popular, and the encouragement of a female that shall remain nameless, I approached the Kappas (Kappa Alpha Psi – Nu Rho Chapter) first as a freshman, only to opt out of their mindless Neanderthal hazing sessions. Somehow a nicca putting a cane to my ass didn't seem like tough love! It was only three of them: Adrian, Vince, t. Banks, and J.B. These three so called frat brothers couldn't even get along?! Then, the next year I made friends with the Alphas, (Alpha Phi Alpha-Kappa Theta Chapter). I lived in this spot called Chaffin 112. We called it "Room 112." We had the occasional parties, females over constantly, and of course alcohol never ceased to escape our weekend routine.

Two of my roommates, Mike and Reggie, were Alphas and I became cool with the whole chapter of Alphas at Vanderbilt. Later, I realized that my personality, or character, held no weight in factors for joining their organization. It was more about my academic and social track record. They saw me as fickle for wanting to be a "pretty boy pimp" Kappa the year before. If only we ALL knew how sick we were, and some still are. None of us had a real knowledge of Self. Later, I found out the Alphas knowledge of Egypt is mostly Hollywood, and quite comical. At least they use Egyptian symbols. Maybe that's a start in the right direction. They simply did not have the skills to teach anyone how to survive the rigors of a cutthroat academic environment, let alone survive the real traps in America without assimilating.

In fact, because I had so many poor grades in science classes, my G.P.A. was rarely up to 2.3. I was dismissed from the potential of being part of their intake into the brotherhood on the fact that my grades were too low, and I tried to be an Alpha after wanting to be a Kappa (a black Greek fraternity social faux pas)! I'm no genius, but from what I can see now in hindsight, we were all enslaved, and some still are to some extent. Even if you have straight A's, who you gonna work for? Do A's not mean you are well trained and successfully bamboozled?? Don't straight A's stand for straight Assimilation, Acculturation, and Agony. Like the last poets said, "Niccas are scared of revolution!" Since I became more of a loner, I started to listen to music like Dead Prez just for Self-preservation and peace of mind.

If African-American secret societies, fraternities, and sororities are so watered down and gimmicky that brotherhood and manhood is measured by hazing, stepping, Greek letters, and the criteria of Massa, we have a long way to go as progressive civilized African people. There should be one fraternity and one sorority on every college campus in the United States, especially for people of all colors and races. This sorority and fraternity should be called Hiphop Men and Hiphop Women. You know why, because every student on college campuses in America is getting pimped, hustled, manipulated, or brainwashed in one way or another. We as Nightjohn just knocked the hustle! The good news is that Hiphop is the only state of mind to prevent such mind control and that's the Truth. Hiphop will help to foster minority unity, black love, cultural/religious tolerance, brotherhood and sisterhood on a college campus. Greek fraternities and sororities will not.

If there were brothers who approached me as a freshman and said, "Yo man, welcome to the fakeness matrix, this college shit ain't no joke, we gonna help you make it through," what an event that would have been! What if they had said, "Check it Bayo, we don't believe in any Greek letter bullshit. We're about the uplifting of Africans and all humans, and recognizing the power of civilized evolving people over technology, elitism, classism, and racism. We are Hiphop. All you have to do to be down with us is make a vow in your own heart: 'Our Love Of Rap Unites Nations' or 'I Am Hiphop' and we'll help you discover your own vision, Divine Purpose, and goals. Once you do that, we'll all get together and build our intellect and find ways to manipulate the entire college system so we ALL get over on these administrators, get A's and get our receipt and live as free men and women in American society. We ain't gonna let this university red tape bully you." Would that be exciting or what??!!

Instead, these black fraternities made it seem like it was a privilege to be in their organization. Like their secret activities are holy. Why would I want to be down with them just 'cause they wear certain letters or colors and had a few women?? They all had their little petty rivalries, especially the sorors. It was all bullshit. It's hard enough to pass classes on a predominantly white college campus in America. I was thinking, "Should I get my ass beat to join a bunch of classy brothas who ain't even gonna help me in real life or would never be there for me in real beef in the street?" When push comes to shove, are they going to help me smooth talk a professor, plan my schedule, appeal an unfair grade, or solve my financial issues. Should I follow the blind? I refused to believe the hype. I decided to fight my college battles alone. I lost, and eventually had to drop out of college, but I preferred to take my loss as an independent free thinking man, than a socialized wanna be black Greek gangsta. I went down in honor.

There should be some type of destroy and rebuild process among black sororities and Greeks to help each of them do away with their sickness, the whole thing, so we all unite for the cause of Hiphop, not beat individuals down, and pick each other apart. Why cause a whole extra round of mental warping on the previously mis-educated black mind through fraternity and sorority

hazing? First, we deal with assimilation, then we must face our own people telling us to assimilate to black Greek tradition, a perversion of brotherhood. If you don't meet those standards, then where do you go for support?

I think the black Greek system is old and should be destroyed and rebuilt for Hiphop men and Hiphop women. That's just my opinion. I'm sure I'm not the only Hiphoppa who hold's this opinion. I think the black Greek system is based on assimilation and social climbing corporate ladders in America, and not helping young gifted black men and women use college life as a stepping stone for their real Divine Purpose, ultimate freedom, and ultimate liberation. I cannot help but take that position. I was forced to take this position through cold rejection from so called black people. They didn't want me, and I finally decided I didn't want to be Greek. Thank God I have been forced to take that position through rejection. My experiences are nothing new. Hiphop has always been our gift for being rejected, deprived, and ostracized from mainstream society and popular culture. I am Hiphop, because I know my Creator put something special inside of my heart that no human can destroy. Hiphop is indestructible. We are spared when we realize the mainstream is NOT good for us, but rather toxic.

I came to my "black" people seeking wisdom, Purpose, and direction and they turned me away based on poor grades, lack of willing to get my ass beat, and social politricks. I came to a small niche of my brown people on a very racist, elitist, and classist predominantly white campus; and they used the criteria of their oppressors to deny me…their brother! On top of that, you know many young brothas or sistas coming through college need some type of support system on a cold, lonely, beaurocratic campus. I had no network. I then saw these organizations were not even providing quality networking for their members. Most of the time, they just wanted "Kappa Sweethearts," or "Alpha Angels" as fresh new females to fuck. The black Greeks were only about step shows, parties, chasin' ass, and polititricks.

People from the African Diaspora should not have Greek letters across their chests. Fuck Greek letters, what about US. What about African letters!! What about our human letters I – A – M…!! What about our liberation! We ain't free yet nicca!!! Egyptians taught the Greeks!! Just cause we get to sit down in colleges and take propagandized notes doesn't make us free. Then we got the nerves to smile at a coon picnic like minstrel characters twirling canes, mutilating our own people with branding, and line dancing (party hopping) like it's a mating ritual. High Schools and colleges more or less numb us to the true possibility and wonder of life. We are supposed to be visionaries and leaders, not lemmings! Freedom of thought means we can exist in this society without having to change our soul, appearance, or mind just to get a J-O-B or friends for that matter. Freedom means we can live our lives for our own unique Divine Purpose and not be condemned for doing so. Freedom in this society is supposed to mean that universities are places of discovery and not businesses.

People who drop from black Greek hazing are labeled unsuccessful, incapable of upholding their legacy, and unfit to be a member. That's just how it is. It's too much of a replication of the larger structured ills in America. I'm glad black fraternities didn't want me. I sure as hell know my life turned out a lot better without having the stigma of being a black Greek in America. If I had not been rejected, I would not have been backed into a corner I had to fight my way out of using only Truth.

You'll discover in this book, that often our most meaningful life experiences come after loss, disappointment, rejection, and setbacks. This is why in The Hiphop Driven Life, we have to opt out of the entire system. I don't blame my Greek letter fraternity and sorority brothas and sistas entirely, because most of them are unaware of the ills in our society and they all need to be properly educated by Attuned Hiphoppas, Kultural Specialists, and Teachas. They must wake up so they stop walking around like black Greek zombies and finally throw away their Greek letters and join the Hiphop movement. I love them, even in their misery. Everybody has their own free will. However, educational reform is desperately needed in America and people must be more responsible for helping one another climb up instead of hindering one another through social lollygagging. Even though the Alpha's kept me out, they had to accept the fact that I was Mike's roommate.

I remember my roommates Mike, Groesbeck, Akil, Reggie, Bryant, and other brothas that came through our apartment. We had a lot of fun, despite the confusing contradictions of university life. The only Truth that I can say with conviction is that when it was all of us in one room and we were just chillin', laughin', and talking, we were human beings that share the same stresses of American education. None of the thought viruses and illnesses were intentional. In fact, most people suffer from subconscious glitches in clarity. At the time, I was sicker than they were. At least some of them could actually articulate and express themselves.

There were individuals around me who used to rap like Mike, Jorge, and B. Taylor. I couldn't even identify with them enough to rap and freestyle. I remember even going to this white boy's dorm one time with everybody. We were all just chillin' and this dude had instrumentals and a C.D. mixer. I remember when the mic was passed to me nothing would come out. I felt like rappin' but nothing would come out. I felt like an airhead, like an ignorant bastard. That's the worst feeling I've ever had in my life. I said something like, "Yo I'm Bayo, and……" Utter silence. Everybody laughed, and I joked and played it off. That was supposed to be my shine, but I was so ripped apart and broken down inside by my effort to be some college student that I'm not that I had nothing to say. It hurt. I vowed to never be at a loss for words like that again. There was even a talent show one time and a football player named Mike got up and did his thing. That again, was supposed to be me. I felt robbed to not have Hiphop in my soul all those years. Worse, I didn't know how to get it back. Part of my life mission is to recover that lack of Self-expression and help others find theirs. I couldn't rap, now I can. I couldn't freestyle, now I can. I took my emptiness and eventually lighted

the spark in my heart to continually carry the torch of Hiphop.

Shit, I started tuning out of the social circles. I was flunking out of school anyway. I became real distant. I became a private young man with personal power around that time. Girls were always wondering why I was so secretive. I used to be gone from my apartment for hours. I guess they thought I was studying. I was thinking. I was writing poetry. I was researching ways to destroy the demonic elitist way of life forever. God knows how many books I read alone in that Vanderbilt Central Library, in the solitude of the stacks. Fuck my classes, I was already failing most of them…..I was determined to steal all the knowledge I could from this elitist university. I made use of that library. Sometimes I would just go to Tower Records and buy some Hiphop music or go in the divinity, law, or business libraries on campus and roam around and talk with a few females in the business or law school. Every now and then I'd write a poem or two to get shit off my mind.

There were around ten brothers I made friends with going in as a freshman, by the time I left, I had only one close true friend: Stephen. I became the one that dropped out, Steve was the one who made it to graduation, and a few other brothers in my class. Steve transferred in as a Sophomore. He and I became friends in the gym weight room. Each of us always worked out by ourselves. After a while, I asked him if he had a partner, and we helped each other stay consistent. After a week or so, I realized his mother was also white, and father black, so we had similarities in upbringing. We both were bi-racial. Like I, he just looked like a light skinned brotha. We were disciplined. We lifted weights everyday day from 3-5p.m. We worked out just as hard as some football players. Pumping iron was our release. We entertained women, hustled (Selling cell phones), and partied. We always joked around about the bullshit going on, females, and life in general. People even thought we were brothers.

We both were taking Economics classes, so we studied a lot as well. I remember that he was one of the only people I could talk to about some other things I was reading. I told him about Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill. I even gave him a copy to keep. We both had a forward mentality. We talked about stocks, politricks, and corporate America. We went to job fairs at the same time. We were both headed in that direction. That was my closest road dog. As my grades and financial situation got worse, I could see us splitting apart. I stopped drinking to focus more, there was one female I liked, she fronted and went after him in a shiesty way. He got an internship, I didn't. Life was just taking it's toll on souls. His internship solidified his connections in the corporate world, and he had a job in Financial Advising at A.G. and Edwards in Atlanta. In the Spring of 2001, I finally had to leave Vanderbilt because of my grades and the financial bind I was in. My mother was in Clarksville, TN, 30 min away, so I went back to Vanderbilt to visit Steve from time to time, but I was making so many changes in my life that we just weren't as tight. He could tell I was different. I could too.

I remember going back one particular time right before Steve graduated in the Spring of 2002. I was staying in his room and there wasn't shit to do. There were some other brothers still on campus and they wanted to go to a strip club in downtown Nashville. I was like it's all good, we're all God's people, so we all went. We ended up at a black strip club. Same raunchy chicks you would normally see trickin'. Some of the dudes were getting lap dances and entertained for cheap. That night I remember this one dude put his face in this woman's raw sweaty crotch. I almost fell out of my seat at how ignorant some of these sex addicts were. Afterwards, we were all outside in Steve's car when these females pulled up to my right. They were asking "Where's the party at?" Next thing I know, one of the football players in the other car ran over and made a deal with them to follow us to the Vanderbilt Chaffin dorms.

I didn't realize we were hanging out with some tricks, especially the football player. We all drive back to these dudes dorm, and they stooped as low as I've seen young black male college students go. These academic brothas had the whores in the living room negotiating prices in the Chaffin dorms. Steve and I were in there. I went upstairs to use the bathroom. A chick came in there after I left, then Steve was waiting behind her. Later, he told me, "Yo Bayo…she squatted over the toilet man and didn't wipe, wash, or flush!." I was like, "Oh shit!!!" Next thing Steve and I know, the whores are downstairs talking shit like, "Thirty minutes for $50 or we can do a group price."

This one sophomore nicca (who shall remain nameless) was countin' his money like a trick. At the time, I couldn't believe these so called college educated brothas was stooping to this level! Now, in hindsight, I understand the flaws of the educational system and the Truth about mis-education in America, I overstand. I was like, "Yo Steve let's bounce." After that we left. The next day, Steve told me three of those dudes fucked those prostitutes. That night changed my view towards sex forever. I vowed never to let sex control me, or to be as caught up or afflicted like those dudes. They were tricks lusting after empty cheap sex…..and they were "Vanderbilt Students" So you tell me if education and intelligence is about IQ scores, grades, SAT scores, and the prestigious college you get into. We ALL need to learn Human Education Against Lies, and the H.E.A.L. Movement; Common Sense Deficiency Syndrome (CSDS). Steve is my witness.

In the fall of 2002, I saw Steve again and we talked, but he was heading to a suit and tie job in the corporate world as a financial advisor. I didn't know what I was doing. I was in a sad state. I tried to be cool when I went back to visit Vanderbilt. It just didn't feel right. Later when I moved up to D.C., Stephen and I lost contact. Although we were so much more alike, I knew

I had a deeper Purpose than what I had been pursuing, and the suit and tie life wasn't for me. Some of you may succeed the way Steve did and that's o.k. There's no cure all for black men and women in America, or any ethnic group. Best believe, there's a price to pay one way or another. There's always a price to pay in anything you do. I'm personally writing this book for the brothas and sistas that want 100% pure liberation, straight, with no chaser. More importantly, for those few who have no choice but to rebel. Most people will disagree with me. I'm mostly writing my story for the brothas or sistas who have been in the lonely situations I have been in. Life was hard for me the. Yet, A.K. was there.

When it comes to my partner and brother, I had been close to A.K. since he was 4 and I was 10. He is the son of my mother's youngest sister. We're cousins. He grew up in Indiana. My mother and I would visit him from time to time. He has always been my little brother (until he grew taller than me). We never really talked much on the phone until around the Summer of 2000. I finally realized that he was the closest thing I had to unconditional brotherhood. Nobody else, friends or relatives could be honest with me like he could be with me, and like I could with him. We didn't know it, but because of our unique family experiences and life circumstances, we were Attuned Hiphoppas in the making.

We just started talking about simple frustrations and rejections in our lives at first. I was telling him about all these things I was going through and giving him pointers on what he could do to improve his athletic skills and keep his head up in life. At first, he didn't want to tell me about some of the rough experiences he had in life growing up with his father not being around, and hanging out on the streets. Then he realized I was really his mirror and I wasn't ever going to judge him. We became tight and have always gotten tighter as time progressed. We can tell each other anything.

A.K. and I helped each other discover our life's Divine Purpose. This is why we are writing this book together for you, our reader. We know that our discoveries, communication, and brotherhood is so unique that people will be able to find their own Purpose as a result of our pursuit to gain meaning out of our lives. This book may have come to physical manifestation in 2005. Believe it or not, the thoughts for this book started for us when we were just children. As two young black men in America, with white mothers, we have always had to create our own definitions of what it is to be human. Most of our expression for our humanity has been through the state of mind known as Hiphop, also known as our collective consciousness and awareness.

A.K.'s father is from Gary, IN and his father has been in and out of prison, and more recently was locked up on some type of assault or cocaine charges (we're not really sure which). He has suffered through several bouts with alcoholism. On the other hand, my father migrated to the U.S. after surviving a very rural life in the Republic of Benin. My own father had his issues to deal with as well during all my turmoil in college. He was the man helping me manage the my tuition and financial picture for college. Sadly enough, that went down the drain as well. My father is still recovering from a $100,000 debt as a result of online trading in the New York Stock Exchange from around 1997 - 2001. He tried to play with the big boys on Wall Street in the late 90's like everyone did with the online craze, and he was wiped out in 2001 right around the time I had to drop out of Vanderbilt.

To this day, I still think that people who were amateur investors like my father, had online accounts that were monitored. Heavy market swings were created by the financial elitist good old boy network who wanted to gobble up individual online traders during that time period. Read Black and White on Wall Street, by Joseph Jett. I wouldn't put anything past our cash hungry tycoon countrymen on Wall Street. I later read in the book To Pay or Not to Pay: Insider Secrets to Beating Credit Card Debt and Creditors by Stanley G. Hilton, that there is possibly a connection between the rigged election of 2000, and the stock market. I quote:

> "Think about it. While Bush was raking in the cash and running the best financed campaign in history in 2000, where was his money coming from? From the likes of "Kenny Boy" Lay and his Enron cohorts. But where did they get all the cash? Clearly, from foolhardy investors who were deceived by all the phony glitter that corporate America had to present by the bogus "creative accounting" of Arthur Anderson and other "big name" auditor chiselers, and by corporate pirates who deliberately cooked their books to make it appear that they made far more money and had far fewer debts than was the case."

In 2001, my entire world finally toppled. I hit a low of lows. I witnessed the entire American dream I once had implode in my face! Nevertheless, both A.K. and I have been forced to view the United States from an outsider's perspective, mostly because of growing up in low income to middle income households, but more importantly due to a feeling of being outsiders because we've never "succeeded" by mainstream standards. We've always been at the dining table of America, but have never seen the plentiful fruits in our parent's lives or our lives. We have also dealt with the absence of our fathers for periods of time early in life, although I at least had more access to my father on summers and vacations when I was little. A.K.'s father was completely gone by the time he was five years old, gone for good. We also both have had to maneuver within a society that is so often obsessed with race and masculine identity. We've had to deal with the hypocrisy on both sides of the racial spectrum.

A.K. has always felt a deep need to reconnect with the roots of his family from Gary, IN. Likewise, I have always felt a deep need to connect with the Yoruba roots of my family in the Republic of Benin. We've both never really been able to tap into what makes us whole as young African men in America. We've always had the lurking emptiness that something isn't right, and that we have to improve ourselves by being 100% in control of our destinies. Our dreams, visions, goals, and Divine Purpose is all we have. Hiphop is all we had left. For us our dreams are more realistic than what we see out in the world today. We advertise in our own minds for our future Health, Love, Awareness, and Wealth. We are FREE.

Our mother's side of the family is always scattered and distant. Our father's side of our families are largely mysteries viewed in photographs for both of us. A long time ago, we realized these similarities we shared. We knew that there was a deeper meaning for our struggles. We know there was a Divine Purpose for our confusion. We were blessed with the Sight of Hiphop. While some people may not have searched for anything more, we took it upon ourselves to do whatever we could to succeed in a major way. Our pursuits became relentless. Reading, building, talking, observing, listening, witnessing, living, fighting, struggling, etc. Everything we've said and done for the last three to four years has gone through the purifying filters of Hiphop, Truth, Spirituality, and Hope. We wouldn't let anything less than the essence enter our lives.

Because of our inquisitive minds, we have always pushed the limits within ourselves as far as mental capacity, curiosity, and learning. We are 21st Century philosophers, success practitioners, and Hiphop Renaissance men. Sometimes our conversations get so intense that it's like we're shooting verbal bullets at one another. We don't argue. Our minds are just sharp. We sharpen each others minds like blades, geared toward survival, superior thought, and helping others. We literally heat up when we talk. We have serious mind elevation in our conversations. When we say we're going to build, we don't play, we build thought after thought, sometimes for hours at a time. He was one of the first people I told, when I left Vanderbilt.

I remember walking in to see the Dean in the Chancellor's office after failing my last few exams, near my last day on campus in early March of 2001. I looked that mothafucka straight in his eyes and said…."I'm through. I'm withdrawing from all my classes." That was one of the most beautiful days of my life…the day I dropped out of college (the first time). That same week, in my dorm at Tolman, there was an evening round table discussion about "Being Black" on a predominantly white college campus. It was at that time, I finally made an epiphany and made a connection between all the experiences I had earlier and what they were saying in this discussion. As if the dagger had not been driven deep enough in my soul by my failure, I finally realized that what I had been going through was not my inadequacy. The confusion I had been going through was really my responsibility. It was my responsibility to have knowledge of my Self. I went and checked out every book in the library on racism. I need to have right knowledge. I didn't know where to get this knowledge. I turned toward the only essence that had always been with me: **Hi**phop

With perfect timin', I listened to Talib Kweli's Train of Thought: Reflection Eternal to shake that Vanderbilt stigma off of me. I had an Indian friend named Ravi from Radford High. I borrowed his jeep and moved all my shit out at night so I wouldn't have to run into so many zombies in my way during the day. I made a clean getaway to my mom's house in Clarksville, TN. After leaving Vanderbilt behind for good, I met one of my now closest friends Rahz, after getting a job at a Convergys call center.

After leaving Vanderbilt, my grades were too low to transfer to any university out of the state schools in Tennessee, I had no job, no goals, no direction, and no Purpose. I had been battling depression and was sleeping till 3 pm everyday. Basically, I was fucked. One day, I just decided to pick up the classified section in the newspaper and make one last lunge out of my misery. I looked through the paper, and saw a job opening for a customer service representative at a call center. I knew I could read, write, talk, chew gum, and type (all at the same time), so I went in and was hired for the job on the spot. Shortly after being hired, I spent about three to four weeks in a training class in which Rahz taught us about our duties as Triton PCS Suncom Wireless representatives. I was in awe the first time I heard Rahz speak. I was in the presence of Divine speech. He is a B-boy from California who was thugged out in his youth, converted to orthodox Islam, is a poet/emcee, graf artist, public speaker, martial artist, writer, entrepreneur, husband, and father of three daughters.

It is funny how the Divine order of our ancestors works. The brothers that were in that meeting in my last few days at Vanderbilt, had always been a part of the black conscious community in Nashville. Some of them went to Fisk University, some of them went to Tennessee State University. Those were Rahz's old stomping grounds. Rahz had been living a Hiphop Driven Life already for several years, though he wasn't aware that Hiphop might be an appropriate name for it. We don't like labels, but even Bruce Lee named his way of life Jeet Kune Do. We call ours Hiphop. The label Hiphop is only meant to take you much higher. You can call Hiphop the art of rhyming without rhyming.

Surprisingly, Rahz new some people from Vanderbilt, some who I had known and were cool, but had no real connection with. He knew the brothers at that round table discussion. He didn't walk up to me and say, "Yo, I'm Rahz. I'm living a Hiphop Driven life, do you wanna join me?" He connected with a part of my soul that had always laid dormant: the Hiphop within. Maybe kids in the future will be able to say: "I Am Hiphop," without so much negative feedback.

Many of Hiphop's pseudo intellectuals use chess as a metaphor for survivin' the game. For example, a skilled philosopher

might refer to himself as a Bishop. Bishops can be quite impatient. They don't think first, before greedily trapping themselves verbally. As Nightjohn, our favorite piece is the King. The King rarely moves physically. He is a mastermind. In fact, he moves others with his thought. There will always be mastermind **A**rtistic **Kin**gs like A.K., and **B**rilliant **A**mbitious **Y**oung **O**rators, like Bayo. We create swirling pools of thought and can seize our opponent's Bishop by merely proclaiming, "**I Am Hiphop**!" We manifest our R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. We successfully live our Hiphop Driven Life. We have more than theories. We have results! Thankfully, we only have to battle theorists occasionally, before we shout: **Chec**kmate! Checkmate is the moment our chess piece, and our blessed peace, expose gaping weaknesses in an enemy's plan, or lack thereof! We relate to KRS-ONE when he says, "I Am Hiphop." Maybe in the future, speaking openly about being Hiphop will be the norm. Right now, it is new knowledge and met with too much narrow minded resistance.

Anyhow, Rahz was just shining his essence in all its practical glory. It was inevitable that it rub off on me. The aura and Light is in all of us. We are all gifted. Due to my unique background, he and I connected immediately. A lot happened in those two years I was building with Rahz. If you really wanna know:

The year is, one, two thousand millennium
Approachin' Easter, Islamic curriculum
I was banned due to Vanderbilt tuition
Forced to live wit moms, as a man, I was trippin
Depressed, staggered into a call center job
Trainin' a class was a God, brother Yousef Rahz
Black clothes, shiny bald dome, diction sparkle like chrome
In wife's womb, was an angel, Jahrael, Alexis, Bianca, doin well
Marilyn was showin, you could already tell
Adebayo's fluorescent dimmed, conflictin' energy within
Yet, had a Yoruba name, Rahz found interest in
Books were brought in, curiosity would begin
Timberland boots, scented oils, two black men as friends
Rahz said, "I know I'm Right!" I followed his Light
Found Harmony in Joseph "Rahz" Harmon, deep insight
Rahz welcomed the Alpha And Omega into his home
Trust established, no games, Marilyn had pains n moaned
Labor, I guarded the seeds, when she-n-Rahz had to go
In Tennessee, life was slow for an ambitious negro
Rahz unraveled Jeet Kune Do, Egypt, and Breathin' Slow
By the river we trained, in rain, heat, and cold
Rahz created seven laws of Harmony and Balance
Now, Zinah, sexy black Hebrew, she faced a challenge
Liked my river rock brown eyes, how I smiled
Isaiah her son, she cared for, her X husband was wild
Matchmaker Rahz, so I proceeded with charm
Quick wit, thick lips, nice hips, I held her arms
In her Apartment, Zeke was gone, I had to get it on
Man-n-woman united, sun and earth collided
Here comes dawn, Zinah glowin', my stress gone
the I-Ching, it says seek a great man
But Zinah's X man tried to gorilla pimp again
Wanna hunt me down, bangin' doors, asinine threats
Almost ripped door off hinges, I entered the kitchen
Started to grab a knife, then I thought of Life…
Zinah was right, she called 5-0, while I held Isaiah aside
I was brave, but this was no reason to die
Love was over, Rahz deeply asks…U alright?
He said, you don't need that drama in ya life
Summer goes on June, July, August right
September eleven, year one, two thousand millennium
Myself, August eleven I turned twenty one
thirty days later, late for Biology Lab
My moms at Ft. Campbell happened to call back
She said, "the U.S. was under attack!"
I flip on footage them planes was hijacked
Both twin towers hit, one hits the pentagon

I realized life was short, I must move on
Next, I called brother Rahz to see what he thought
We knew U.S. policy was wrong, but this was odd
We was shocked, that night we trained indoors, faith in Allah
Rode in Rahz car, while he played classic Mozart
Same fall, after not too long, Jah-Ra-El was born
Marilyn was o.k., baby healthy, Rahz's heart warm
Energy swellin' a warrior's dwellin' was flowin
Holiday's came and went, Adebayo stayed open
Qur'an, Tao Te Ching, Metu-Neter, Niggas to Gods
I brought word to my cuz Arnett, on behalf of Rahz
A.K. and I rap, in the back, Peter played Guitar
One song was "Excellent Essence" by far
The new year came in, A.K. and I watched Ali
Made up our minds, one day that's how I'll be
Year two, two thousand millennium we in
It begins, I'm still a pawn among family and friends
As a golden sage, I was just too loyal to begin
In the dining room, my momma said do what u love
At Austin Peay, I publicly speak, I neva give up
Straight A's in speech class, professors praise n such
Even had Daphne, a boriqua, fallin' in love
Took her to meet Rahz, see him speak
It was bad timin', Muslim event, men only
Rahz saw us, stepped outside, told me…wait
Courteous, respected my date, she said "Rahz is great!"
I go back to Radford V-A, Spirit continues
The prince Shawn and King Cortez see my issues
Cortez attracted to an underworld, of hustles and sales
C. Lewis-n-us wanna start Thor Entertainment, it fails
They say I'm changing, Rahz was my third eye rail
That Summer, June, July, & August was hot as hell
Rahz and I was in and out of touch, oh well
Marilyn lost her sis in a crash, R.I.P. may her Spirit prevail
I had to build RPM blocks, to set my Destiny a sail
Moved into an apartment Rahz visited and…..
I was facin' my best friend, with some thoughts I held within
Like, my father's troubles with shiesty wall street men
Rahz told Bayo, just make progress, and you'll win
October, Rob drowned to death at twenty three, he trained at our gym
I plan to visit Ethiopian Princess Deborah, Queen Mekdes again
sniper attacks pop up all over Maryland, demons intense
Rahz purchased a ratchet, to protect his family from sin
By December two thousand two, all this shit ain't make sense
I had my mind made up, I would take risks, jump off the fence
It was hard leavin' Rahz, one of Hiphop's higher men
But I knew we'd both be wealthy sages and ascend

The Hiphop Driven Life is a slang phrase A.K. and I have coined to describe a life in which the collective consciousness of Hiphop defines much of our meaning and Purpose, giving us an extra Sight to cleverly prosper in peace while pursuing our life's vocation in American society. Hiphop is so fresh and young, that often we have to be very aware of what's happening to us even as it is unfolding. Now we call it Hiphop, but KRS reminds us that in the 70's in the South Bronx it was just a group of Latino and Black kids trying to learn the traps of the streets. A.K. and I, were just two bi-racial boys, labeled black by American society, trying to learn the traps of ostracized life in America to become men. Just like Nas and AZ were five-percenters studyin' street mathematics. Just like Tupac, Biggie, Russell Simmons, and P. Diddy learned how to hustle to survive. Hiphop is a state of mind, an attitude, and a way of life.

It is non-judgment that lends to freedom of thought and expression. Because A.K. and Rahz never judged me, and I never judged them, I was able to express myself to them, and develop Purpose when my life felt meaningless. So often, formalized education prevents real learning; because it is crammed down the throats of the student, never giving the student time to ask

questions and ponder deeper meanings.

Likewise, Rahz is now seeing the fruits of his Hiphop within and Divine Purpose, even through the distribution of this book. Rahz's life is also a Hiphop Driven Life. In 2001, it was just our form of awareness and expression, a way to build a community Spirit as friends. I was eager and wanted him to point me to certain books. As we became close, I learned my own strategies for waking up happy every day. I learned to define my success by my own interests. Rahz lives a life like several thousand other liberated human beings and Hiphoppas in our country. He lives a life of renaissance and well balanced expression. Are we existentialists? Fuck Philosophy and "isms"! We get results! We Are Hiphop! While teaching the customer service training class, Rahz's enthusiasm for life helped me peel away my mis-education, and mine the diamonds in my own soul. For the first time in life, I started understanding Divine Purpose.

By me learning from him, I gave Rahz even more purpose. By him teaching me, he gave me even more Purpose. When I asked him questions constantly, it challenged him to study and grow to give me answers. I observed his spoken word performances and listened to some of his recordings. Rahz only had gone to the high school level in formal education. However, through Self-education, he was more well-read in Spiritual matters and philosophy than many professors who I encountered at Vanderbilt. My rebirth and Spiritual resurrection began around Easter of 2001, when I made close friends with Rahz, an Attuned Hiphoppa living this Hiphop Driven life. I took my relationship with Rahz very seriously, and still do, because I respect wise men. I found that he had done the best he could with his life, promising himself to be a beacon of light in the world, no matter what mistakes he made or obstacles he faced.

By the end of 2001, I had built up a substantial library of books on Spirituality, African history, metaphysics, psychology, and religion so I gave A.K. Niggas to Gods, Volume II by Akil. At first I didn't think he was going to read it. A.K. called me the next day and he had read the whole book from cover to cover….in one day! For those of you who don't know, Niggas to God's Pts. 1 & 2 are unschooling books. In essence, their prose is geared toward the socialized mentality of a man or woman on the streets with a simple vocabulary. Because of it's blunt Truths and in your face belief system analysis, some grown adults cannot read these books from cover to cover! It's just too antagonizing and emotionally confrontational for some people latched into certain belief systems. A.K. gobbled it up and spit it back out to me. By him learning from me, he gave me Purpose. By me teaching him, I gave him Purpose. Thus the cycle of Hiphop Driven lives continued and continues to this day.

In December 2001, when AK first expressed his desire of wanting to rap professionally, I knew he had ideas about Hiphop Kulture, but he was mostly exposed to the shit that was on T.V. and radio at the time. Being the big brother I was, I wanted to explain to him my own mis-education and some of the changes I had been making to fulfill my life's Divine Purpose. I wanted him to see that there were codes to Hiphop, and that he couldn't just run out looking for record deals and quick fame, especially at his age the industry would eat him up, swallow him live, and shit him out. I emphasized the necessity of practice, skill refinement, taking a careful historical study, and building a healthy respect for the game. I also suggested that he develop his own personal code of honor. I wasn't fully awake myself, but I knew enough that what I was seeing in rap music on T.V. at the time was not real. I know that Hiphop comes from a deeper place in one's soul.

We're bringing you real life, authentic, and sometimes personal metaphors, processes, and analysis that have helped us cope with an ever changing world. We're giving you the pattern of thinking that has allowed us to deal with a scattered family background, racism, broken friendships, classism, poor education, mis-education, rejection, and ostracism, while emerging intellectually, emotionally, and Spiritually superior to circumstance. We have created these pages for you, the people, out of love and commitment to helping you geniuses liberate your mind, the African way, the Hiphop way. As you learn how to discover your life's Divine Purpose, remember the people in your life who have never judged you. Remember those people that somehow miraculously appeared in your life at just the right time. The magic of Hiphop is Omnipresent.

I had gone through all the stages of formal education, but I found that once I discovered my Divine Purpose, I had a better curiosity, more wisdom, heightened awareness, the ability to adapt to change, both left and right brain activation, physical fitness, and the ability to see the connection among all things.

As you can see, from my story, I didn't only learn in school. I am a student of life. I am an artist of life. Public university life is kind of like a public swimming pool. Private University life is like an uppity elitist and racist swimming pool at a country club gated community. They called Vanderbilt the "Vandy Bubble." Many kids there were sheltered, pampered, and not down to earth. As a black man, they smile in your face, but you kind of feel odd when you walk around this swimming pool. Besides feeling invisible, you also feel an emptiness that is beyond words. So many people have so many conflicting opinions and beliefs within American college institutions, it kind of makes the water dirty. There are a lot of thought viruses floating around on college campuses. If you were going to go swimming, wouldn't you want the pool to be chlorinated? Well, discovering your vision, Purpose, and goals before entering college is like stepping outside the box and adding chlorine chemicals to the pool of thought before jumping in. If you already have some thorough knowledge of the Universe, you can at least get the most out of your educational experience. If you add chlorine to the water, you can at least enjoy your swim without worrying about "catching" some

strange bacteria, fungus, virus, or disease from dirty water!

College is a business. If we are going to go to college, we must be prepared to do business. If you are not prepared to do business, don't go to college. To be prepared for business means to have vision, Purpose, goals, direction, commitment, a business plan, strategy, and tactics. A majority of young people have not had enough time alone with themselves to discipline their minds to such lofty thinking. Those who do are usually the high achievers in college, dominating and manipulating college systems gracefully. I hope that we provide an outlet with our book to help you better prepare for life whether you go to college or not.

College seems to be the centerpiece for the average life of a young adult in America. If we grew up in a bad environment with poor public schooling, college probably never was a reality. Streets may have been our schooling. If we dropped out of high school, not going to college may have been or be an alibi for not making it in life or being successful. Likewise, if we are young in middle or high school we think college is going to make our lives everything we dreamed it would. If we are in college, we are focusing to stay a float as a number on a campus, (depending how large or small the college is). If we are in graduate school or have just graduated from college, we are wondering why we are never going to use our college degree in our chosen profession! We are wondering why we have taken out loans of several thousand dollars. We wonder why there is something missing. We may even wonder after college whether it really was worth it.

Part of my Purpose in writing this book with A.K. is to give people insight into what life and Self-mastery is all about with or without high school or college. If you are in college reading this, good for you. I would hope that these pages help you make the right choices while there. Choosing courses, majors, and professors are very important factors in college success and survival. It is my hope that your Purpose will allow you to do so in an efficient and beneficial way. If you are not in college reading this, good for you. I would hope that these pages help you realize that college alone doesn't make you successful in America. Much to the contrary, being a student of life, and making your choices according to your own unique Purpose makes you successful.

Why is college a business? I don't know! This is a great question to pose to chancellors, deans, presidents, administrators, professors, and intellectuals in academia who love to order brand new textbooks each year, force students to take obscure timed exams, bribe N.C.A.A. athletes, and cause students to act as if they were Memorex tapes. This book has made it into your hands because I personally failed at the business of college! My college venture went bankrupt! My college credits turned into college chaos! I was forced to go start new businesses out in the real world outside of college. It's just the hand I was dealt. I'm blessed to be who I am, doing what I do.

I was simply not informed that college was a business. My parents were not informed enough to tell me. I had no brothers and sisters or cousins who had any unique insights to give me. I didn't stumble across any magic books or prophets at the right time! I had to step into the world without a clue. I don't want you, my dear reader, to just go into life blindly, or step into the world without a clue. I want my disaster to be your triumph.

My humane and civilized brothas and sistas, don't look at college as a chance to get away from home, a time to party, a time to have wild orgies, or a time to drink, blaze up all day, or snort cocaine, inhale, huff, or inject away the pain. Even though the average American way of life just ain't cuttin' it for millions of people, find your peace within. The average way of life in America is equivalent to torture in the middle ages. Nobody really wants to work in a cubicle at a J-O-B. You know that is the path you are heading if you stay in the mainstream "status quo" route right?? You see this dark hole you are in, but instead of looking up to get out, you grab for the quick pleasure fixes of sex, drugs, and alcohol, which only keep you trapped. You don't want to be in darkness forever do you?

Realize that if you're going to party, you don't have to go to college to do that when money is at stake. Join the circus or something! Promote concerts!! Just realize that when you sign the dotted line and pay tuition for a university experience, you are buying a university experience, a business service. You are entering an agreement with a cutthroat institution that will expel you if you do not follow its rules, guidelines, and regulations. This includes behavioral rules as well as academic quotas if you are on a scholarship or grant. Just like with record companies, publishers, and television, you literally become a slave to the university when you sign the dotted line. You're not signing up for classes that you can easily skip out on if you feel tired or like you don't want to go to class. You are allowing yourself to partner up with a college, so that you can use their logo on your degree (receipt) and resume (press release). Unfortunately, you will be running around on a campus with 95% of people who don't read books like this and see college as a game, hobby, or party. You may be the first in your family to go to college. You may not have the luxury of partying. Maybe you do. Either way, know your true motives, and know where you stand. A man or woman who stands for nothing will fall for anything.

When you graduate from college, your resume is like a press release. That's all it is. It's not going to open any magic doors for you. Your degree is a receipt verifying that you did indeed legally purchase the logo of this or that college or university. You still have to market, publicize, and promote yourself when you leave college. You are always an entrepreneur in America. The language of America is business; it always has been and always will be. America is about the pimp game, hustlin', a competitive dog eat dog chase for the dollar. You still have to manage your personal finances. You have to balance your social affairs with professional life. In America, a person's life is met with a swarm of financial attacks no matter what you do. Yes, you also still have to be a life long learner if you want a life of happiness. I bring up all these points because so many youngsters go to

college like they're hustlin' blind. Don't think that you've made it somewhere when you make it into college. It's an illusion. You haven't made it anywhere until you can claim your Divine Purpose and be totally happy living, a free, independent, autonomous lifestyle in the United States of America, and more importantly until you actually own something.

If you are determined enough to go to college, get clever and have a clearly thought out strategic plan. Otherwise don't go to college, use your time for Self-discovery and Self-education. In other words, to be a free-thinking American citizen, you will eventually have to STOP allowing others to make decisions for you, and make your own decisions. This is where many high school graduates fall short. They think they are now "independent" when really their decisions have been influenced by all types of forces: Parents, M.T.V., family, friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, counselors. The list goes on and on.

The first independent decisions a young adult should consider should be your life dream, vision, Purpose, and personal goals. You have to outsmart the college system, if you want to succeed in college. The college isn't going to give you anything but the logo. I admit, you may meet some kind professors and a few individuals who are a catalyst for your personal growth and maturity. That is all and well. Remember, you can meet interesting people anywhere. You may learn a few useful things here and there. For the most part, you will be bombarded with so much information and busywork that it will be difficult to obtain truly lasting profound knowledge. Your primary focus in college is grades. You are in the business of getting grades wholesale, and when you apply for a job, you will be selling them for retail value. Life's a bitch ain't it….or is life a Goddess?

At the end of the day, you still must come to grips with the fact that your college professors are well trained salespeople trying to get top dollar for their wholesale grades. You can either buy into what they teach you and follow along and pay a higher price for your grade with loyalty to their ideas demonstrated in your papers and tests, and time studying, or you can think independently of the system and formulate your own ideas, finding ways to provide the professors with what they want, while maintaining your sanity, hopefully getting a good deal on your grades. One way or another you have to do business in America. You have to negotiate to get that good wholesale price, if you want to flip your grades to an employer who is going to buy your skills at retail price after you graduate. Business is the language of America. Whether it's flipping grades, flipping books, flipping records, flipping cocaine, of flipping properties. It's all related to the pimp game.

The Hiphop Driven life gives us the sight to maneuver within society with poise and grace whether it be middle school, high school, college, Self-education, jobs, entrepreneurships, or politricks. Such a sight allows you to outthink the typical mainstream Neanderthal you will run into. A Hiphop Driven life is a life with Purpose and meaning, predominantly immersed in the marinara flavas of Hiphop Kulture. If you walk on a college campus with clearly Self-defined Purpose and meaning; having already mapped out your classes, your courses, your major, ALL based on a crystal clear vision of your deep personal aspirations, you will have power, the power to negotiate from a position of strength.

If you have developed a concrete Purpose, and concrete goals, you will gain the most out of your business relationship with your college institution. If you have been given a grant, scholarship, or special financing/funding to attend college, you must understand that this is like being given a loan from a drug kingpin in the mob to purchase kilos of cocaine. If you take this money, and you don't do something with this inventory, you will have to answer somebody, and will have serious death threats coming at you! You must produce. While you will not literally be killed for not paying this money back to a college institution (maybe your parents will kill you!), if you do not make this investment profitable it could kill your dreams for the rest of your life. It's not that you can't recover. It's just that you may not have the discipline to re-educate yourself after so many years of brainwashing and unforeseen setbacks.

I hesitate to be so blunt, however my mistakes serve as a model of what not to do, so others will have hope and avoid pitfalls. My dear mother told me that silence means consent. The Truth shall all set us free as we disagree. If your dreams don't involve college, then you have nothing to worry about except giving your pursuit your all. For example, if your dream is to be an actor or musician; college may not matter much to you, so you probably can afford to blow away your college days; though there may be a financial consequence. If your dream or Purpose is to be a doctor or lawyer, and all your desires are born in Self-motivation (without parental/family/friends ego trippin'), then your dream is fueled by the college experience; go for it. Just make sure that when you do, you are ready to play hardball. If someone is pushing you to live their life through the major you chose, drop those courses like a bad habit and do what you love!

If a university loans you and your family $1,000 to $19,000 a year or above to attend their institution, which may have a tuition of $5,000 to $40,000 a year depending on the type of school (in state or out of state), they are giving you money to get a good deal for your wholesale inventory of grades. You are responsible for using these classes to sell your skills for retail prices as a professional when you get out of college. If you fail to "make the grade" or leave college without employment prospects, you start life in the negative. Your dreams will slowly be squeezed into a corner of jobs you have to do verses jobs you wanted to do.

As a scholarship or grant student, you are a hustler. You are now faced with a monstrous opponent. Have no fear, your opponent is very large, cumbersome and slow. If you are sharp, and move like a guerilla warrior learner, and street

entrepreneur, you can get everything you want out of college and still have time to kick back and chill. If you have any questions about college militancy, talk to Jonathan Farley, the mathematician at Vanderbilt University. If you have tactics, you can get your grades for low prices of time and energy. Yeah, you may have great grades, leadership skills, and look swell on paper in the high school life. However, if you are not able to produce results (grades) as a college student, it is all for nothing. You must have the mental ability to play hardball when you negotiate with your college system.

One of my best friends from small town Radford, VA was a brother named C.C. We'll call him Cortez. Cortez knew how to get things done. His father left him at a young age too. He was out of the house running wild at a young age. He was always in and out of his mother's house, facing real issues. He grew up in reality. That will always be one of my closest niccas (even though we fell out a while back). Cortez and I always had the heart to succeed. He was four years older than me. I learned a lot from that brotha.

When I was a freshman, he was a senior in high school. He knew how to attract women, get grades, and get anything he wanted from situations. He ended up going to Virginia Tech. He started off as a Biology major and got his bachelors in that. Cortez always had a game plan though. He was a street tactician. He was a street entrepreneur. He told me countless stories of how he got all these extra perks at Virginia Tech. He wasn't consciously doing it, so it wasn't like he could teach me exactly what he did. By the time I got to college we were all mainstream thinkers, I trusted the system too much. Unconsciously, Cortez would set up shop, he had females type papers for him. He sold weed on the side. He had connections all over campuses in all types of areas, athletes, administrators. Athletes at Virginia Tech got big respect, so he joined the Track team for a while. He was getting money out of the Athletic program. He's a hustler.

He finally graduated with his bachelors with relative ease. At the end of that year, he cooked up a plot to open up a restaurant/bar near Radford University, in downtown Radford. He found a rich lazy white boy with parents who had deep pockets as a partner, got financing, and was in that shit deep. They hired employees, he went the whole nine. Cortez was a Scarface type brotha. He even had Scarface's picture in his living room. He was an all or nothing type dude. He knew how to make big bold moves. In the meanwhile, he made his way over to the Virginia Tech business school and told them boldly and confidently that he was an entrepreneur with a business, and they let him into the MBA program off of that alone, he hadn't taken the GMAT had his grades evaluated or anything. Now, think about that while you're studying for your graduate school admission tests.

Unfortunately sometimes, the game can play you back. So be careful my people. After I was rejected by Vanderbilt and as I got deeper and tighter with Rahz, I started moving toward Light and Knowledge of Self. I would tell Cortez shit, and he'd be like, "Fuck that shit man, are those Muslims down in Tennessee changing you?" Seriously, I felt like Sincere in the movie Belly, trying to tell Bunz something, only to hear back, "Books ….Fuck Books….It ain't no Purpose. Get money!!!" I would tell CC, "Yo man I was reading this book man. It's about Egypt." Cortez would say that same thing, "Bayo I appreciate you reading that shit, I'm C.C., I don't have time for that shit."

Cortez was after that paper for real. He always test drove Benzes and B.M.W.'s, he had hundreds of back up plans, and connections in the underworld. Next thing I know the Restaurant/Bar was pulling in major cash during college season. He graduated with his MBA. He officially hustled the system, but they got caught up with a liquor license violation at the restaurant and that was over. It's like he never had enough degrees. He mentioned going to law school as well. He and I talked about getting into concert promotion business with his cousin (one of my best friends) Shawn. We started putting shit together in the Spring of 2002, for this promotions company called Thor Entertainment Group but it never worked out, Cortez was always on another plan. He loved the underworld. He got me heated by leaving this message and the last digits of his phone number were three sixes. I told him to change that shit, and he got mad! That was after he decided to go to law school down in Miami. After that I cut our friendship off.

I'm not going to get to detailed about this whole story, the wise among you will read between the lines. The reason why we fell apart was because I felt that I had a deeper purpose. The moral of the story is that sometimes we think we can pimp the system if we hustle, but in the process, we get so deep into it that we can't get back out. Sometimes brothers get too deep to coach 'em back. It's like you can absorb so much of the corrupted way of doing things in the competition that it takes over you. I love Cortez like my own blood. But I was getting knowledge, wisdom, and understanding and I knew that we were going down two different paths. I tried to share my Light with him. I hated it cause his cousin Shawn in Radford is still my best friend, and he was dealing with both of us. This is why most Attuned Hiphoppas opt out of the entire system. Sometimes working within the system to pimp it using more and more degrees, money, and the material world can stray you way from the good and the positive you deserve in life. I don't know where Cortez is now, but I'll always pray for that brother.

Go to college, do what you gotta do, but don't get caught up and blinded by the pimp game. Stay awake. I do not make these points to alarm students or scare them away from college. I do make these points to alarm students and scare them into choosing curriculum and courses that they know they will be able to get A's and B's in to graduate. If you're going to buy grades

wholesale, go to where the deals are. An A in one easy class, is a lot better than spending hours studying in another to only get a C. Your GPA when you graduate is your profit margin. The higher it is, the more you make when you flip your grades to the employer (retail buyer). To me, life is now simple because now I'm a business man.

When I was younger, I used to make my life hard because I was working hard and believed in the propaganda of higher education and thought studying and learning where the Purpose of college. If you're going to go to college, plan on graduating with the best grades at the lowest cost of time, tuition, and energy. Fuck all the Ivy League, hi ranking mumbo jumbo. Life is too short. It's not being lazy. It's being smart, and getting a good deal. If you are undecided or love knowledge for the sake of loving knowledge, it may be wise to not go at all, to take time away from college, or choose a curriculum you will breeze through getting the highest grades. Why would you go to a marketplace to buy something wholesale if you don't know who your retail buyers are going to be? You have to know what your demand is if you are going to sell to them. Who is in demand of your product? Who is your employer, your buyer?? What company or organization are you planning to work for?? Your skills? Your major? You?? You are selling yourself after you graduate. Be ready.

We can philosophize all day about choosing majors or courses according to income potential, skill, and practicality for getting a J-O-B. My approach probably doesn't even apply to those with parents who are able to pay for college in cash. Even if your parents are able to pay for college in cash, beware! I know individuals who's parents spent thousands upon thousands of dollars on their children to buy that particular college logo, only to have the student decide that college wasn't in their Destiny!

If you are going to spend your time, money, and effort on buying grades wholesale from a curriculum at a university, you must understand what a university is in it's ideal definition. A university is ideally supposed to be a micro Universe. You are supposed to go to a university and pick the stimulating fruits of all Universal knowledge. If you do not like one particular type of fruit, do not choose it! College is also like a huge restaurant that offers a buffet. A restaurant is still a business so there's still a bill to be paid. You still pay for everything you eat. No matter how much you try to squeeze out of the buffet line, your stomach can only hold so much. Remember, just because there is a buffet in front of our eyes, does not mean that we can eat everything, eat things that disagree with our internal system, eat things that appear good on the outside, or eat what is suggested to us by a waitress.

You must use your Hiphop Driven Life to navigate this buffet of college, and this buffet of American life. Remember, not all right knowledge is studied on college campuses. You must also remember your mandatory undaground studies; (Zulu Nation, Nuwaubians, Nation of Islam, Ausar Auset Society, Niccas to Gods, Tony Robbins, etc). If you ain't studied street knowledge, how far can you go in America? You want to be able to navigate and manipulate systems to get what you need to get, and get out with as little pain, drama, and chaos as possible. Some of you may cringe at this thought, but it requires planning, foresight, and research. Does that sound hard? For those whose Divine Purpose is meshed with college life, it shouldn't be an issue. For those whose Divine Purpose will have nothing to do with college, the college approach is probably not appealing. I would suggest not going to college, if this approach does not seem appealing, because college is a business within our competitive American society.

If back then, I knew I would have to treat college like a business, I would have started my own business in the first place. Right after high school, I would have done something fun and interesting. I would not have gone to college. It only takes about $150 to start your own corporate legal entity (to incorporate). That entity is a separate entity with it's own tax ID #. In real estate, sometimes you don't even need your own money. If you can put the deal together, you can get paid off of finding a deal, as long as you know who your retail buyers are. There are other businesses as well that have affordable startups. If you can't pay the $5,000-$40,000 tuition at some college, don't feel like a loser. Go start a business, travel and see the world; or work on your gifts and talents by volunteering. Buying grades wholesale and selling them retail within a four year period for a J-O-B, in which you will endure taxation, politics, and cubicles is a terrible return on investment. You'd be better off starting a lemonade stand in the South Bronx! You'd probably learn more about life that way too!

I'm sure navigating college corridors sounds harder than sleeping late, partying, and drinking every weekend! As you enter the college domain, you must research professors, courses, schedules, build a network and analyze your own strengths and weaknesses. You must know your enemy (a bureaucratic system) as well as you know yourself. If you don't know yourself or your enemy, you will lose. If you know yourself and don't know your enemy, you at least have a chance of winning. If you know both yourself and your enemy you will be victorious.

I'm sure that many of you will not have the mental ability to focus long enough to plot out four years of college with tactical maneuvers, semesters as they come up, create a system of getting old tests, and eliciting behaviors and motives of professors before negotiating. You still have to be a guerilla student. The war is to get your receipt for the business services you paid for at the college institution. The battles and deals are every test, every class, every semester and every grade. If you know your Self, you will be able to do the appropriate preparation out of love for your future.

If you want to wing it and let the chips fall where they may, you have a 50% chance of succeeding as a result of unexpected trials and tribulations. We simply cannot predict what is going to happen to us in life. We can only control our own actions, feelings, and behaviors. College life requires politics, networking, survival skills, persistence, the ability to memorize large quantities of information, life/time management skills, negotiation skills, business skills, and a tolerance for opposing viewpoints. For

some people, college is not the right type of business. It was not the right type of business for me.

I say it loud and proud "I'm a college dropout." I don't look at it that way. I see myself as a leader. I look at myself as a person who saw something beyond the status quo. People shouldn't criticize high school or college drop outs. Some people hate on Kanye West and others for emphasizing the term "college dropout." The Truth of the matter is that it's a success to drop out of something if it is in the way of your dreams and your Divine Purpose. Quitting college is just like quitting a job with an annoying boss breathing down your neck about something stupid. It is always easier for those who are afraid to live their lives to the fullest to attack us college dropouts for liberating ourselves. Dropping out of college is not for everybody, but some people know college is not for them, and these people know their Destiny.

A lot of scholarship students and students on grants (primarily ethnic or minorities) simply cannot take the pressure of a political environment like a college campus. Vanderbilt was even more socialized with 40% of women being in sororities and 30% of men being in fraternities. The population was about 85% white, and about 5% black. There were so many secret fraternities on that campus it was insane. Old tests were distributed to select groups in white fraternities. To this day, I still think some professors were paid for giving students certain grades. They weren't buying their grades wholesale, they were paying professors a cut under the table for free grades! I cannot prove it, but street knowledge tells me this was the case. I vowed never to quit, despite all I witnessed and heard, but I was forced to leave after I violated my academic probation again and I would have had to take a loan out for $19,000 a year. I was assed out!

I have cousins in my family that are now working that are in $20,000 - $30,000 debts they are slowly paying off in student loans from college. My cousin William is in his residency as a heart surgeon. He once told me that his college debts would be well over $100,000. I spoke with a woman one time who told me she had a friend who attended medical school and residency. Her friend was now practicing as a physician with up to $250,000 in debt from school loans. If we did a detailed research study of how many people owe debts after college, I'm sure the results would be eye opening. Such a study probably already exists. You may believe that college is about your learning, independence, and new social life. Of course, that's what they sell you. What you believe is up to you. College in America has always been a business and will always be a business.

If you are going to make a Purposeful living doing what you love in America, the odds are stacked against you whether in college or not. It's o.k., you have rights….a right to a fight. That's right, we live in a free enterprise system. There is opportunity for you to dream, discover, and create your ideal life. However, with this opportunity you must commit and be disciplined to a vision. This is why we recommend you do serious soul searching with the aid of this book to discover your Divine Purpose.

America's opportunity also shows you that you either put up or shut up. If you're going to exist outside of the normal status quo matrix ways of living inside the box, you either produce results or you starve. Fortunately, there are humanists like my brother A.K. and I running around helping people to discover a deeper meaning to the turmoil, chaos, and technological overwhelm found in our society.

Although, my view may seem quite radical, negative, or cynical to some, there are those who will feel a warmth, happiness, resonation, or vibe to know I am verbalizing what they have been thinking and feeling about the struggles in their own life. I stand out for them so they can say to themselves, "I'm not a failure, just uninformed, all along I have been thinking right!" You individuals will realize that it is your responsibility to master yourselves and choose your own Destiny in college or out of college. These people are truly touched by Hiphop. If one person benefits from our discoveries and is able to make a positive change in his or her life, we have succeeded. That is our definition of success: serving others. We have set the game up for ourselves so that we can't be losers, only winners.

Even the job search process in America has become flawed. Human resource departments are cluttered, scattered, and inefficient. You name it. I suggest for those of you leaving college and entering the work environment to read Nick Corcodilos' Ask The Headhunter (www.asktheheadhunter.com). Your focus on finding a job will be much less stressful if you stop being lazy and following the "Job hunt" craze and take a tally of your true vision, Purpose, and skills. Find a company or business where your uniqueness will be valued; preferably somewhere you can work without selling your soul. It may be hard to find, but such jobs are out there. Headhunters search for identical matches. Personnel offices skim resumes (press releases) and file people as numbers. This is the same thing that happens at radio stations when they get press releases.

If you are going to look for a job, why not do a thorough research and choose a job where you can actually walk in the door, solve a problem for your employer and have the employer begging you to work for them. What an idea! Use a clear common sense approach. skill + problem solved = J- O –B. Cut out all the bullshit and do meaningful work. Provide value for someone, show how your skills will increase their profits, show your uniqueness, and be a skilled influencer/negotiator. Don't try to cheat your employer by sending him a resume (press release), then shuck and jive in your interview trying to sell your grades at retail price, knowing they don't mean anything because you didn't learn anything. If you are going to sell yourself to an employer, sell them raw uncut specialized knowledge, expertise, value, skill, decision-making, and problem solving. If you do, you will get top dollar! You don't even need a degree to do that, all you have to do is research the company, find an inside connection, and

introduce yourself to a decision maker. That's Scarface shit for the college hustler. Cut out the middle man and do you. Don't believe the hype.

I cannot emphasize this enough. This is America, and the language of America is business. A Hiphop Driven Life is autonomous and liberating. Sending out hundreds or thousands of resumes (press releases) all week and then kicking back to chill all weekend waiting to get a job is ridiculous. If someone owned a record label, and sent out press releases like that, even if the music was genuine entertainment, no albums would be sold. In America, you must show people what value you have and what value you can provide them. This is how you command the justification for your retail price. You must sell. You are chasing the wind if you are trying to sell nothing for something in America. Always live on Purpose! When you live on Purpose, perfecting skills you love, providing value for people, making decisions, and solving problems, everyday is a weekend baby!

In my path to BE more Hiphop, I finally had a path to grasp and it was my own. If people in your life have judged you, criticized you, or held you back, forgive them. You are now about to turn over a new leaf in your life. While you can jump to any section of this book, it is better to understand the underlying principles of the genius thought process before going on to apply that genius toward your highest intelligence and Divine Purpose. All the while, you'll see how to fully embody a Hiphop lifestyle. Then again, it's your life, use this book in whatever way helps you.

The first section of this book will uncover seven principles that will guide your thought process toward a life of infinite growth and evolution. These principles will help you create the habits that will awaken the genius within your Self. Contrary to the Western way of viewing genius, by mere intellect or I.Q, we speak to the concept of holistic genius refining processes.

The next section will give you specific ideas and strategies for putting together in your mind the organizing principles, words and ideas that define your Divine Purpose, your highest intelligence, your skills in Hiphop, and a close examination of some of the ills of America's educational system.

The final section will help you deal with real world issues, encourage you to make a difference in the world, and give your more insight about Nightjohn and The O.L.O.R.U.N. Companies.

This book is the guide/handbook that you can always turn to for inspiration and direction in becoming an autonomous person. You now have in your hands a way to live without ever holding anything against anyone. Love your Self, your expressions, and love those who persecute you! Through these pages, you can find a path to call your own. Revenge can be satisfying; however becoming a shining example of your own outstanding Self-defined, Self-determined, Self-respected level of success is essential. Living according to your own life's Divine Purpose is the most honorable achievement a person can ever have in life. Living A Hiphop Driven Life is all of this and more……The world is ours…..

"I was a ghetto prisoner, all my niggas were ghetto prisoners,
and we still are ghetto prisoners to some degree.
But we have to rise mentally so we don't get caught up
and be stagnant with the same old thoughts…
we really can have a big impact on the whole world
if we just use our brains and make shit happen."

-Nas

Principle 1

Curiosity - Let Me Find Out

"My Alma mater was books, a good library . . .
I could spend the rest of my life reading,
just satisfying my curiosity."

--Autobiography of Malcolm X

If it weren't for our curiosity, we would probably think of ourselves as failures. We would probably just stick to the humdrum American Self-centered way of life. We hate to admit but we're not role models. We are risk taking leaders. We are humans, not the poster boys of piety. We fall miserably short of stereotypical American media ideals. If there was only one way to measure intelligence, we wouldn't be able to communicate our Divine genius. As you read earlier; I, Bayo, am a Self-righteous college dropout, and A.K. is a rebellious high school graduate. If it wasn't for our curiosity about what separates the stupid from the smart, we would never have become smart. There are many ways to measure intelligence. Don't ever let anyone tell you that you don't measure up, regardless of how they measure their mainstream definition of intelligence. If you hear that you aren't making the grade, the verbal attacker is probably overlooking your true genius and focusing on a minor weakness. You must get curious about life. Get curious about yourself because your Divine Purpose and emerging genius depend on it. In the early eighties, Howard Gardner first published the book Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences. Since that first decade, his books have received welcome appreciation throughout the world, and he has written several books building upon his theories. Doing so has solidified for many thinkers the concept that there is more than one form of intelligence! As of 2004, he has been able to clearly describe ten different forms of intelligence. The curiosity in our own Hiphop driven lives have made us aware of these forms of intelligence within our selves. We now share them with you in hope of quenching your thirsty curiosity. These ten different intelligences:

Musical
Natural
Spiritual
Existential
Verbal-Linguistic
Logical-Mathematical
Spatial-Mechanical
Bodily-Kinesthetic
Interpersonal-Social
Intrapersonal (Self-Knowledge)

We would like to bring to your awareness new s, that there are ten different types of intelligence. So, is your curiosity sparked? Too many youth in our generation flunk out of school not knowing their true potential. Too many of our Hiphop youth measure their Self-worth by the archaic guidelines of former slaveholders. What a crying shame!? What if your special gift is

music, but you haven't had the right environment or tools to explore music? What if your highest intelligence is Bodily-Kinesthetic and you have been forced for years to take classes that are highly analytical? What if you are a social butterfly but are always told you can't talk in class? What if you are a deep philosopher and all the teacher wants is memorized notes regurgitated back on a test? Your best curiosity will come from wanting to know where your best, talents, and gifts lie. Curiosity is about exploration and uncovering new things about your Self that you may not have known before.

For us, intelligence and learning is a daily operation, so expect to be curious about yourself twenty four hours a day, and seven days a week. What if it were routine to balance a healthy understanding of all ten forms of intelligence? Do you think you would be better in some forms of intelligence than others? Of course. What you must do is at least take some time to think about these different focus areas of intelligence. Think of the gifts, talents, and skills the Most High Creator may have given you. It is much easier to be curious about them if they are constantly on your mind.

"Street smarts will get you killed sooner than book smarts.
Street smarts will teach you how to make money,
but 98 % of how you do it is illegal.
You can't retire on street smarts,
but you can on book smarts."

– Ice T

The first step to discovering your Divine Purpose in life is questioning everything you already know. We mean everything, all the way back to the creation of humans! We know it sounds like a lot of hard work. But really it's not that difficult. You have to be a detective and find out which of the ten intelligences are unique to your own life. That's right, there isn't just one intelligence as measured by test scores. That's why we want you to realize the Universe is your laboratory. Have fun! What are the gifts, talents, and skills that you perform effortlessly and without much struggle? Yow will realize that book smarts, or street smarts, or musical smarts are not the only way to succeed. They are just small pieces of a larger puzzle. Your mind will be more open and much more free. You most likely have talents that you never knew you had. The only way to find out if you have those talents is to examine your life, identify the problem solving skills that have always made you happy. You must become intensely curious about how to master activities that may seem awkward or uncomfortable at first.

You must be curious about life if you want to learn anything. True learning takes place like a meandering river or stream. It slowly trickles through our consciousness. You have to give yourself the opportunity to explore things in the world that you have always been curious about. No matter what your position in life is now, we all need to know something. We all have a need for fulfillment, advancement, and evolution. We must be curious enough to first ask questions, then go look for answers. We can get answers from a person, a book, a film, a website, a song etc. Your discoveries lead to conclusions that you either add to your store of knowledge or you throw away. Hopefully, if you have a consistent train of thought, you can find answers that connect with other ideas you had in your life as you were learning.

We are being honest with you, Truthfully school is not our best outlet for awakening our curiosity. We feel your pain if you are struggling with school. We have been there. Most school systems are set up to be very strict and limiting. It's a shame that so many kids are being given medication at earlier and earlier ages due to the fact that they have trouble sitting in one spot like school zombie slaves!

Whatever happened to the idea that to prepare our youth to become individual leaders and citizens in a democracy, we need to prepare our youth to think on their own feet? How can a human being survive if he or she cannot think independently? We need to prepare our youth to be world leaders. You have probably gone to school and felt the torture we are talking about. It is sad, but schools really do stifle a youngster's ability to dream. How can you conjure up a vision for your future while sitting in classrooms waiting for the clock to tick down to the end of the day? Unfortunately, many kids buy into the educational system 100% only to be rudely awakened later in life. You don't have to be one of those people. We are giving you ideas here that will transform your life and allow you to direct your life with precision.

How can you develop curiosity if you have to go to school as a result of pressure from your parents? First of all, you must realize, the essence of America is about choice. You do not have to go to school if it does not satisfy your curiosity. There are such things as unschooling, home schooling, and life schooling! *(See the back of this book for resources such as* The Teenage Liberation Handbook *by Grace Llew*ellyn) The whole Purpose of living in a free democracy is that you can examine your individuality all day and night, come up with the life plan meant for you, and live it that mission out to the best of your ability until you die, hopefully leaving the world slightly better than you found it. That's all your Creator asks of you. Those are the dues you must pay for receiving a life on earth. It doesn't even have anything to do with your parents. Your parents or guardians may be loving caretakers providing you with food, clothing, and shelter. You are born through your parents, not from your parents. They should not be making the decisions for your life. It is important to love and respect the people who have guided you through your young years, so by all means honor and respect your parents. Only, when it's time to get down to business, or when it's time to

discover your life's Purpose, you will then become a responsible, independent, free-thinking, adult American citizen.

You cannot be perfect. However, you can do everything in your power to prepare yourself to live according to your Divine Purpose. Part of this preparation is taking a clear analysis of what you are capable of handling as a young man or woman. Do you have skills to be disciplined and solve problems in life? Are you equipped with enough practical knowledge of society to live on your own in a city with no familiar contacts? One of the biggest mistakes we can make is taking for granted the time at home when our rent is free, there are no bills, and few responsibilities. That is the time to get extremely curious. If you are not curious about anything, I would doubt you would be reading this book! Curiosity is inescapable. As long as your eyes, and ears are open to the world, you will develop curiosities. The main point we want to get across is that learning is not what it has been portrayed to be in schools, on T.V., in popular culture, and in movies. Learning is a process of discovery that helps you understand yourself and your world better.

We wish we could give you a set pattern or rules to discover your Divine Purpose. We can't. There are no rules. You make your own rules. It always amazes us that in American society, people feel so trapped, so limited, and so restricted. Most people suffer from a fear of years of being socialized in our society. We've sidestepped this socialization and are bringing you the uncut raw version. We have nothing to hold back in helping you discover your Purpose. If anything, the awareness that you able to define your Purpose would be a giant step. Most people in our society are not thinking about Purpose. Most people are drifting aimlessly along in life; bouncing back between dead end jobs, clubs, bars, parties, and television like ping pong balls. We wrote this book for the big dreamers. Those of you who want to be fully active in the game of life and succeed are our loyal supporters. It is unfortunate that sometimes the message only reaches those who are already seeking light and awareness.

Curiosity killed the cat. Where did this term come from? Why did curiosity kill the cat? Am I being curious right now? Are we asking questions that can't be answered? What do you think about these questions? Do you realize how curiosity is a natural process of thinking? Thinking is nothing but asking and answering questions. If we can really learn to ask quality questions and increase the amount of questions in our lives, then we are well on our way to creating a Divine Purpose that will last forever in eternity. How can you learn if you never ask questions? How can you ask questions if you never learn? It's all about our mental activity. We don't want to have dull mental activity, being told what to think all the time. Exposing yourself to the wrong environments in life will prevent you from asking and answering the right questions that will make a difference in your life.

Don't be a boring person. Why is the sky blue? Why was the 2000 presidential election rigged? Why did Michael Jackson carve his nose to be as sharp as a razor blade? Why is there so much pimpin' and pinwheel/flag hats on M.T.V. and B.E.T.? What is the similarity between pimpin' and taxation? Why are liquor stores on every corner in the inner city? Who really wrote the original version of the popular Hollywood movie "The Matrix?" There is no end to questions that you can ask yourself. Part of your intelligence really is a measure of how many questions you can successfully ask and answer for yourself. Thinkers are people who have the ability to ask themselves questions and find answers quickly. Break free! School, work, and the boring fake lifestyles in America prevent us from tapping into that curiosity that is natural within us. Most people don't even value their own questions. Some people's biggest question for the day is what am I going to wear? Or, what am I going to eat? Or, what bills do I have to pay? Life doesn't have to be a monotonous circle of meaningless questions.

When you start getting really curious about things you see, you begin to find ways to answer your questions. When you find an answer to your questions that are really helpful in your life, best believe you are getting closer and closer to your Divine Purpose. Do you have questions about Hiphop? Nature? Science? Space? Politics? Relationships? If you can identify where your predominant questions in life are, you can begin to uncover your predominant interests. Ask questions that provoke you. We encourage you to ask bold questions, that only you can think of. By doing so, you start up your brain's firing processes. Your brain may be numb to years of drinking, drug use, school bureaucracy, mind control, or socialization. Either way, all it takes is a firing process to get cranked up again to lift you up from confusion into meaning and Purpose.

"Yo, I failed ninth grade three times, but I don't think it was necessarily 'cause I'm stupid. I didn't go to school. I couldn't deal.

***-Emin*em**

Get Open - Ask Great Questions

The only dumb question is the one that is never asked. Don't be afraid to make mistakes or come to false conclusions in your questioning. If you really think there is something wrong with schooling and you have legitimate questions about the way you are being educated, then you have to take the steps to continue in your line of questioning until you discover a Truth that satisfies you.

All great inventions and discoveries began as a result of great questions. Never ask yourself questions that will force your brain to come up with negative answers. If you ask the question, "Why am I such a failure?" Your mind will give you an answer that you don't like. Think of your mind and brain as the oars in guiding you down the river of your Divine Purpose. If the river is

getting rapid, all you have is your brain and mind to ask and answer questions so you can make decisions. If you ask questions that are negative, it's like your oars are just poles with no paddles. Put some positivity and hope into your questions and your oars will have big wide paddles that will help you maneuver along in the river. If you ask, "What can I do differently that will help me have more success?" You could get a multitude of answers that will help you make a few decisions and navigate through life with more ease. Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream. Don't try to go white water rafting if you ain't got no life jacket, no paddles on your oars, and holes all up in your boat! Don't ask too many questions before you can answer the small few you're dealing with now. It's step by step. Ask. Answer. Ask. Answer. It may be a mental muscle you need to get in shape again.

How? is a great way to start of a question. How can you improve? How can you turn this situation around? How can you make your life better? How can you take more action toward uncovering your life's Purpose? How can Hiphop be your source of inspiration and passion? These questions lead you to answers that will take you places, instead of answers that will hold you back and cause you to feel restricted with negative thoughts floating in your mind.

What? is also a great way to start off a question. What can I change? What is it that is important here? What is life really about? What will be the impact if I make this decision? These questions will lead you answers that will help you identify some facts and get yourself to follow through with specific results you are seeking. When you know what it is that you can or cannot do, what it is you are or are not after, what it is that is or isn't in your way, you are ready to make progress.

When? is another great way to start a question. When do you want to know? When are you going to start? When do you need to leave? When will we ALL be free? When will we not be pressured and forced to learn things we don't like in school. When will people stop killing one another in violent wars? When will civilization catch up to the rapid pace and innovations we've seen in technology over the last couple of decades? Ask when gives you a sense of urgency in your life. You will only live for a limited number of years. Ask when gets you to be eager to do something before it is to late.

Why? is always a good question to ask when directed away from your Self. If you ask your Self why too much, like we mentioned earlier, you'll go crazy. It's often great to ask why about things you don't understand in our culture, society, or environment. Thus, we can seek solutions, instead of dwelling on problems. Why are we taxed? Why are people so negative sometimes? Why do we have so much violence in different inner cities. Why are some voices ignored in our society? Why do those in power want to hold down those who have little power? Why is school so boring? Why do we have to learn about subjects that do not interest us from age 5 until 18? Why is probably one of the most powerful questions to direct us to gain Purpose. Reasons, meaning, and motivation are all gathered by the question why. Once we know why we are doing something, why someone else is doing something, or why a certain cause has resulted in a certain effect, then we are really uncovering our emotion, enthusiasm, and energy toward reaching a particular objective.

Where? Another good question for us to consider is Where? Where are we? Where are we going? Where will we be? Where is the love? Where will we be the best place for a particular type of work or business? Where will life take us, if we make certain decisions? Is it really not where you are but where your at? Where would the world be without questions!? Ask where, helps you identify the location of something. Where helps you organize in your mind ideas that you can't seem to grasp. By identifying the source, the whereabouts, the location of a thought, place, person, or thing, you gain clarity. With clarity comes brilliance.

Who? Who are you? Think about the inner YOU, the you that exists when there is no one else around. That's who YOU are. Your inner Self is sometimes distorted when around other people. Sometimes it is difficult to play the roles we are given in society, because most of them are fake, false, and phony. When you know who you are on the deepest level, you do not have to worry about continually living a double life. Your Purpose stems from who you are at your greatest potential. Your Purpose is your beacon of light through the darkness. When you are capable of sitting with your Self alone in a room for several hours or even minutes you probably can relate to the idea that you have certain desires and visions that create your identity. Only you can fulfill those particular choices in your life. There is only one you. Whoever you are, your unique life experiences give you a Divine Purpose that no one can match. Your challenge is to be you and do you. Find within yourself the ability to be who you are and have a never ending curiosity about staying true to yourself. Asking who, helps you identify your humanity, and make sense of the humans in your life. When you are able to distinguish between who's who and who's doing what locally, nationwide, globally, and Universally; you become quite clever. Don't believe us? Great, here's an assignment. Look for every symbol on the back of an American dollar bill. Ask your Self: WHO were the people that created these symbols? WHO were the original people who made these symbols? After you find the answer somewhere; look at all the landmarks, monuments, and buildings in Washington, D.C. Then, ask your Self WHO originally constructed this type of architecture? WHO are the founders of all human civilization?

Children always have a childlike wonder. As you think about your life, can you remember what it feels like to just want to know more about something almost to the point where you asked people questions about it constantly? Does that childlike sense of wonder have to stop when we become adults? What is an adult anyway? Does being an adult mean that your life becomes boring, you sit behind a desk, and your work is done in an office. We can be childlike in our approach to discovery, while mature in our approach to fulfillment. We can make responsible choices in our lives. It's always easier for children to obtain new knowledge, because they are no longer restricted by rejections and negative conditioning. They have honest questions and expect honest

answers. We can continue in life to keep asking honest questions about what it means to be human and how special life really is.

If we want to get to the essence of ourselves, all we have to do is look around. If we see nature, violence, prostitution, drug use, corruption, compassion, loyalty, crime, people of different cultures and races, we are bound to have questions. If we can look back in our lives and find out how the things we observe and relate to us, we can really begin to see the depth of all things. It is the desire and yearning to have it all make sense that keeps us all curious with more questions about life.

We don't always have to even be curious about everything, just the things we think may make a difference in our lives. We wouldn't want to be curious about affairs that are not our business. That's only a way to stir up trouble and cause issues that we have to deal with later. We don't always want that. What we do want is a path, which we will only discover if we ask long enough, intensely enough, and deep enough. We want to know what makes us tick. Most of us may be afraid to admit it, but we think of ourselves more than others. No matter how much we help other people, our Self needs to be whole. If we are curious about how to make this happen, we can unfold our thought into new pathways of life, while living on Purpose.

"What I learned from the whole experience [of attending an exclusive girls' school] was that there's more to life than what's around the way. I saw a whole 'nother level of income brackets that put into my head, "Okay, I want more in life. There's a whole 'nother life of luxury that exists beyond the local way." I was determined to go out and get it."

-Rah Digga

Keep a Book of Rhymes/Journal/Notebook/Diary

Scribble in a notebook and you'll find your Self. Seek knowledge simply for the pursuit of Truth instead of designing a plan to make money or some other exterior gain for a change. As Hiphoppas, many times, the pad and the pen is our judge and jury. We take ourselves to court with our own writing. Self-examination always leads a person to find an inner drive that cannot be contained. Writing in a journal is at the heights of Self-knowledge because documenting thought is like capturing a moment in time. When you take a picture with a camera, you can look back at a still photograph and see a piece of reality and examine it from a different perspective. It's always different than the moment when you were there actually taking the picture with the camera. Likewise, when you go back and look at something you've written on paper, you'll find that it captured your mood, emotion, or thinking at that particular time you wrote it.

Such an activity can allow you to regulate your passions and emotions, sort of stepping outside the box to examine your Self. Doing this on a regular basis is almost like being your own psychiatrist. Why do you need someone else to examine your emotions and thinking, when you can do it through your own sense of curiosity about all the thoughts and ideas swirling around in your mind.

Never be caught without some type of writing instrument or notebook! The Hiphop Driven Life must be captured as it unfolds! Write down your ideas, your goals, your aspirations, your dope lyrics, your frustrations. It doesn't even have to make sense when you write it out. If you can write something out on paper, be a letter from the alphabet, a word, a doodle, or a drawing, you've just removed the thought from your mind. You've also recorded an original aspect of Hiphop Kulture that will one day be documented and preserved. **Your single id**eas are worth millions, billions, or even more! After writing, you can be free to examine an idea at a later time and think new fresh thoughts. Bruce Lee had pages and pages of notes on himself in his personal library. Leonardo Da Vinci left behind over 7,000 pages in notebooks. This is a key to your Purpose, especially if you write rhymes. After taking a look at all the rhymes that you have written, you may begin to see themes that are a constant throughout your work. Your Divine Purpose may be interwoven into those themes. You may even be inspired by your own growth and change from old themes. If you look back at what you've written and see changes that you've made, you might see how your life takes on different meaning and Purpose when you changed your thinking, behavior, or actions.

Your book of rhymes doesn't have to be fancy. Your journal doesn't have to be fancy either. You can use spiral, bound, hardback, or paperback versions. Make sure you have something that you can take with you when necessary. All you need is paper and a pen or pencil to capture your thoughts. Helping your Self expand your own consciousness is what life is all about. Even if you have to use a napkin, do you. Make your journals or notebooks interesting. Draw, write down quotes, poetry, jokes, and thoughts. If we are always busy and we never have time to record our thoughts, then where will that leave us when it is time to overstand ourselves deeply and live on Purpose?

"It's hard to walk a straight line when the track is laid down crooked."

-Cee Lo

U Gotta Maintain – Make Decisions, Solve Problems

To be free-thinking individuals with a life worth living, we must be capable of facing challenges and overcoming them. Our day to day decisions can make a big difference in our lives in the long run. It is up to us to use our minds to make choices that are beneficial to us in the long run. Our decision-making skills are like a muscle that must be exercised frequently. If we are not accustomed to handling progressively more and more complicated decisions, we will crack under pressure. Our curiosity is weakened by poor decision-making. How can we explore the world if we are afraid of our own limitations. It is by challenging ourselves to come up with new answers that we grow and make progress.

We face negative despair and sorrow, only as a result of our carelessness and poor decision making further up stream in our lives. We want Self created problems or challenges. A Self created problem is something you face after making a tough decision. These challenges are the forces that help us grow and expand as human beings. If you want to climb a mountain, you are going to have a few challenges facing you. If you want to travel the world, you might have a few setbacks. If you are lazy, sleeping all day, and watching mindless music videos; you might not have the problems that come with climbing a mountain or traveling the world. You may think your life is easy, until you have health problems, money problems, relationship problems etc. If those specific problems could have been prevented by you living a Self-created Purposeful life, then you are not doing your part to make your life the work of art it should be.

A Hiphop driven life is a life of conviction, decision, and action. It is really about being a superior proactive force in the world, not a passive, lazy, pushover! Don't let the problems of the world get you down! Don't let the challenges in your life stop you from pursuing worthy goals. The United States Board of Education in America is the first violator of the dreams of today's youth. This organization is run by people who want to make kids slaves again by having them sit in desks learning nonsense. As a result, people get so fed up with schools, they either use it for their place of business for selling drugs, their place to get away from home, or a place to socialize. Once in school, young people are treated like animals….Sit here, Go here, sign this, do this, stop, go, walk, eat here. Kids get so used to being told what to do that there is no longer any choice for taking charge in life. Kids are losing all sense of initiative.

The fact that so many kids get rocked to sleep like mindless zombies is appalling, and a crime against humanity. Kids can barely make decisions for themselves anymore. On top of that, after being told what to do, they come home from school and play violent video games, listen to violent music, watch violent movies passively, and download hardcore pornography on the internet. Do you think that's going to help us all attain world peace and overcome conspiracies to destroy us? How will we grow world leaders with warped minds? You've got to take control of your Destiny and realize that solving problems, making decisions on your own, and taking control of your life is the best thing you can ever do for yourself. Don't let others tell you what's wack, what's cool, or what's real. Ninety percent of the people from middle schools to colleges are straight up followers. They wear the same clothes as everyone else, wear the same "gear," listen to the same watered down music, use the same slang, drink the same liquor, and have the same lame game. Don't be a black, white, Indian, Asian, or Latino zombie. Don't be a slave to your peer group. Don't do all the things everybody else is doing. Be a leader!

If you want to learn how to be curious and think outside the box (matrix), you have to lift problems and challenges like you are lifting weights. You have to build a muscle within your brain that allows you to handle life and deal with possible stresses. If all you think about is partying or booty shaking, how are you going to deal with adults in society that would love to scam you and take your money? How are you going to deal with cult leaders? How are you going to deal with paying bills and rent? How are you going to deal with college campus politics? How are you going to deal with sexism, violence, and racism?

Wherever you are, you must realize that there is always a world out there for you to explore. If you are not curious enough to explore this world, it will eventually collapse on you. One day you MUST leave home. One day you MUST take care of your new son or daughter. One day you MUST get off the block. One day you MUST move to a large urban city. One day you MUST go to college. One day you MUST leave college and find a job. One day you MUST deal with the death of a loved one. Don't let these experiences, or any experiences in life, smack you in the face. Prepare your Self. The sooner you are able to expand your sphere of influence, the more personal power you will have. You will even find more meaning and Purpose simply by pushing out into the world and discovering new things. God forbid that these new things find a way to discover you when you are not ready.

"Everybody should finish high school as well as college. Why?
Because you need knowledge of all types in order to get through this life. It's important that you do get an education; it's important that you know as much as you can."
- Bianca of Major Figgas

Stay Hungry - Learn Something New Everyday

You must be a being of infinite growth and evolution or you wouldn't have picked up this book. Growing and learning is just like sharpening a blade. If you let the blade sit in the elements of nature, the blade will rust, become dull and not be able to cut.

Your brain and mind is the same way. If you veggie out doing mindless activities all day, you will surely dull your mind, body, and soul. Don't chase after the wheel of fortune. Center yourself in the center of the wheel of fortune by following your bliss. You must make room in your life to live your dream and do what makes you happy. If you feel the urge to write raps, D.J., do martial arts, sing, draw, paint; give your Self time to do these things. Life is not only about grades, school, money, jobs, cars, and houses. Are any of those things living? No. What is living is your heart, your lungs, your brain, your body, and mind. It is up to you to do something with your life.

Don't worry about being an expert or looking like a fool. Looking like a fool and being a fool are two different things. I'm sure you would rather look like a fool than be a fool. A fool never tries anything and believes that life is about being the same ignorant bump on a log as the blind masses. A person living a Hiphop driven life accepts that we aren't perfect and that we can do stupid things and make mistakes on our way to Self-mastery. If you want to learn to rap, don't sit behind your computer and battle in chat rooms! Go out and emcee with real live emcees! Go mess up. Do something wrong, so you can learn better and do something right. Don't be afraid to be different. People may criticize you or point fingers at you, but if Africans in America could withstand four hundred years of chains, whips, and shackles, you can withstand a few negative words from haters! If you want to learn about real estate or event promotion, you ain't gonna learn it in school. You have to hit the pavement, meet people and learn. Real life learning gives you the appetite for more new experiences directing you to a deeper Purpose and happy life. If you know you've tried something and it does not fit your thinking or way of life, try something else.

Never use money, time, or location as an excuse to not do the things you love. Living in a place you hate can have it's positive sides. If it's a place that is very limiting like a small town, find ways to perfect your skill while you are there. You want to grow out of the limited circumstances. What you don't want is to carry your hang ups, fears, and phobias from one location to another. Sometimes moving gives you a fresh new start in life. Either way, YOU still have to be with YOU when YOU move. Never expect events, circumstances, or situations to make your life better. YOU are the source of your betterment. There is always something challenging outside of your comfort zone maybe even slightly. It is up to you to see what you find uncomfortable and attack it! Learn, learn, learn. Read, read, read. Study, study, study more.

If you are limited by environment, we suggest the power of the public library. You can read as many books that you want every day there for free. Nowadays you can even check out audio books, videos, and C.D.'s, depending on the library. Use this to your advantage. There's always plenty of room in public libraries. Libraries are almost always empty in the United States, and librarians have nothing to do but help you. Ninety percent of our popular culture is allergic to the public library. GO there NOW! It has been often said that leaders are readers. We've all seen the commercial, "The more you know, the more you'll grow!" When we were living in locations that we did not like, reading was our way to take our imagination to new heights. If you are having trouble visualizing, maybe you have not sparked your imagination enough. Absorbing good books or even browsing the internet in search of your interests are ways to discover your life's Purpose and change your Destiny.

When you know you are curious, you know you are curious. The way you can tell is that you can clearly identify something new that you learn everyday. When you are not curious, you talk to people about the same bullshit everybody else does. That same boring conversation might be about the top 10 videos, the latest movie, and who's having sex with who. Have hope if the people around you are only focused on little small minded thought. If the people around you only talk about simple daily events, and never expand conversations to new topics of interest and intrigue, go find people who do. If you are not learning, you are not growing. If you are not growing, you are dying. You must have an appetite to know things. Know how to do things, what things may or may not mean, and what freedom is. Having knowledge by itself will relieve 80% of your suffering. You must eliminate ignorance from your life. Why would you want to be ignorant? Don't believe people in the crowd who think ignorance is cool. It may be cool in their little shelter or bubble of a world. When you are in a fast paced American society that would love to swallow you in credit card debt, throw you in prison, or tax you until your old and gray, ignorance ain't cool. A Hiphop driven life, is about staying as sharp as a neurosurgeon's scalpel. It's about being meticulously curious about our government, our laws, our rights, and our freedoms.

We don't know about you, but it fascinates us that illegal business and organized crime is practically the genetic code for American business. Why are gas prices skyrocketing? Where would be a good source to find out this information? It makes me curious to know that the demand in America for cocaine is so high that it is consumed by so many in our society. Are you curious about foreign policy even slightly? If your mother, father, sister, or brother died in the World Trade center attacks, would you then be concerned about U.S. foreign policy? Do you always have to wait for disaster to strike before you can be curious? Do you ever wonder how such curiosity might affect your decision making? If you realized what "getting high" really means, would you still get high? Is getting high only going to accelerate the problems you wish you could alleviate? If you knew that traps were intentionally set in society to destroy you, would you still play video games until age 30!?! What if your Purpose in life is to help relieve some of the suffering that we see in American society as a result of ignorance and poor decision making?

Your only goal in life is not to reproduce, or study books all day to get some job in a cubicle. You have larger responsibilities that must be created as a citizen in a free society. Do you realize there are kids in countries that are considered third world who don't have one hundredth of the opportunity you have, by just being born in America? Why not get curious about

those people? Often discovering our life's Purpose involves participating in our neighborhood, community, city, state, country, and the world over seas. Until you do, you are not doing your part as an American citizen. We advise that you at least get curious enough to make some of your own decisions and solve some of your own challenges, in order to build up your ability to deal with others in society. America could be a country with much higher potential, if so many people weren't running around like chickens with their heads cut off.

There is a lot of ill shit going on in our society. Much of it is way beyond the scope of this book. Most of the problems that this country faces on a larger scale are a result of people being competitive and greedy. You are the next generation of world leaders in this country. What are YOU going to do to stop it. Ask not what your country can do for YOU. Ask what YOU can do for your country. If every American citizen learned to pursue Self-mastery, we would be in some type of land of bliss. Instead of mastering themselves, so many people go out in our society and try to manipulate others. It's not about changing others. It's about living as an example of honor and freedom. Democracy is about being autonomous. Democracy is about holding your own. The idealistic American way of life is about being able to hold your own as a contributing member of society.

"Our words mean something,
because we believe they can bring about change."

*-**M-1 of D**ead Prez*

Pick Up Street Slang - Learn a new language

Get curious about linguistic codes. Language is one of ten intelligences. There is such a wide spectrum of people in America nowadays that we are accustomed to. We are all different nationalities and ethnicities in our country. It's a beautiful thing, to see people from all over the world right here in our country. We have never been over seas. By living in the D.C. Metro, we have positioned ourselves for the world to come to us. It's beautiful. The Hispanic population in our country is increasing. It wouldn't hurt to practice some Spanish. Indians are here. Asians are all over the place. Africans are here to contribute. America is a melting pot. Languages provide us with a texture in life. In Hiphop, language is the force that propels our rap. In rap, we create a language which is not the same as typical English. As poets, English, in it's simple forms, does not contain enough style, and flava to say what we have on our consciousness. We often replace English with our slang. Being bi-lingual is a wonderful skill to have. Think of all the experiences you can describe with a plethora of styles and words to describe them.

Often, kids are the ones that easily learn language at a rapid pace. They are so curious, creative, and open that it is easy for them to put words together and identify the sources of their language. When you are a child, language is fun because you are playful and can put words together with funny pictures. Children watch cartoons and associate all types of wacky ideas with words. Regardless of how they do it, they are capable of learning languages. Adults are just too boring. Being an average adult in America is sometimes a depressing thought to us. Being an outstanding adult in America is exciting. Average adults work regular jobs that have little to no meaning invested in their work. Outstanding adults have dug deep within themselves to share something with the world….and they have fun doing it. An outstanding adult has the ability to give meaning and Purpose to their work. If you can learn French, Spanish, Cantonese, Yoruba, or any of the other various languages in the world, please do so! You make America and the world a lot more interesting by bringing your voice to the world with unique and creative sounds.

The best way to learn a language is by immersion. When babies learn to talk they don't look around saying, "I hope I don't mess up!" They just spew words at you at a sometimes dizzying pace. No one may understand what they are saying but they speak until it makes sense to themselves and everyone else. We don't suggest you run around Chinatown shouting terms at the top of your lungs. The mob might just snatch you up! We don't want to start wars. We have to remember sometimes that ALL cultures like to see elements of their language respected and appreciated. If you are in a class, you can afford to say all you want and mess up, or if you have a friend who speaks a foreign language, say all you can say until you mess up. If you have someone who at least is familiar with the language, you have a chance to hear honest criticism and correct yourself. The truly deep immersion is when you travel and go to another country when you have to speak the language to get from place to place, eat, or even find a bathroom!

"You know. I'm not the smartest person that you ever met. I'm not Einstein or nothing like that. But I'm a person that always thinks that he's gonna do something, and I think that's the difference."

*-**Master** P*

Build Vocab - Read the Dictionary

Get curious about the meaning within meanings of words. Brother Malcolm X became a genius by reading the dictionary alone! He copied the dictionary from cover to cover, building a vocabulary that was smoother than silk. That's why his rap was so brilliant, he had the ill vocab. Words penetrate words in the dictionary. Definitions can be found within definitions. A train of thought can emerge by studying definitions. Pick up a dictionary and find some odd interesting word. If you see a word that you don't understand, look up that word. Take yourself on a wild goose chase through the dictionary. You may be surprised where you end up! Words are power. Find and use as many as you can to describe your SELF, you experience and your Divine Purpose.

Wouldn't you rather read the dictionary than watch ESPN Sports center or watch a movie? Call us crazy, but we would. We would also rather read the dictionary than read the newspaper, a school textbook, or much of the magazine propaganda that is spewed out of the press every month. Words help us describe our reality and communicate with the world. The more descriptive we are about our reality, the more influence we have over others, the ability to change painful circumstances, and a chance to make a difference. Hell, if it weren't for our words and diverse vocabulary, would we be able to write books or rap? You do the math! Sports and news may help you keep up with mindless conversations during the day, but it won't help you discover your life's Purpose. Who's going to win the championship this year? Why does it matter? Is Kobe Bryant going to send you a check in the mail that says, "Here's $1,000 and a book on Divine Purpose, so you can live your dreams just like me!" Nope. Don't be an average *trick* only caught up with being a consumer or observer on the sidelines. You may not want to be an athlete, but there still is a game of life to be played. It was once stated somewhere that there are two types of people in the world: People on T.V. and people watching T.V. Which one are you?

We know that if you read the dictionary, your Self-expression increases. If your Self-expression increases, in some odd way, you become entertainment for others. Instead of watching the news, you literally become the news. We would rather BE the news than watch the news. If you walk into a crowded cafeteria bursting with energy and a slew of new words to describe what you see, how you think, and how you feel; how does that make you stand apart from a person who walks into the cafeteria with the latest football scores or the latest sitcom episode in mind. When you spark up a conversation, it's most likely going to be about what you think instead of what he said or she said or simple daily fluff talk. Your Purpose will begin resonating as you connect the words you learn with the experiences you have.

Even as you are reading and learning more about the world, keep a dictionary by your side. When you see one word that you do not understand, look it up. If you do not understand one word in a text you are reading, the chances are that you it may cause you to misunderstand the whole text. The richer your vocabulary, the richer you will be in mental health, Spirit, well-being, and peace of mind. True freedom is indeed freedom of thought. Anybody can speak about anything. However, in our society, to come up with slightly original thoughts is a heroic act.

There is so much emphasis on instant gratification and sensationalism in our society that people don't know what it's like to have an honest real free thought. We want your life to have Purpose. If your life has Purpose, you give us Purpose and vice versa. Democracy is about looking into the eyes of all the people we meet and sharing our individual Purposes with one another. The end result should be a synergistic aim toward a common objective like enlightened thought or advancing civilization.

Another benefit to reading the dictionary is to find the words to describe your Purpose! How are you going to describe your Divine Purpose if you don't have the words to describe it? You cannot describe that which you do not have the words to describe. Find words. Find words to describe what you are about and write them down. Use words to describe what your life is really about. Use words to describe what it is you have been put on this earth to do. If you can't find words to describe your Divine Purpose, have someone help you find words to describe your Purpose. Only when you have a vision, Purpose, and goals will you truly take your first baby steps toward freedom. Turning 18 and getting into clubs; or turning 21 and getting to drink alcohol is not freedom. Having the words to influence people twice your age at the age of 18 or 21, now that is freedom!

When the law has been set up according to numbers like numerical age, it does a great disservice to America's youth. How many people do you know drink alcohol before the age of 18? Our point exactly. The youth in America are suffering from oppressed creativity, and what's worse is that this slavery like oppression robs youth of the power of dreams and initiative. I can't drive until I'm 16, but then what? I can't get a decent job until 18, but then what? I can't drink alcohol until I'm 21, but then what? Is being of legal age to drink a reward for reaching the age of reason? Is it unreasonable to suggest that there should not be restrictions based on age for youth? What if so called privileges were measured by our maturity and responsibility levels. If we are going to be responsible citizens in the United States, we must be able to think for ourselves.

The only way to think for ourselves is to take back the mastery of our own vocabulary. Find the words to communicate to adults that you are no pushover. It is often a youthful weakness to not have the words to outthink adults who are trying to oppress you. They use their vocabulary as their last form of control in your life. When you can sit down at a table with an adult and speak of adult topics and persuade adults, you are an adult. Being an adult doesn't have much to do with age. We've seen 40 and 50 year old men act like little babies, not responsible for their lives. We've seen industrious, charismatic, and savvy 13 year olds who can start businesses. Don't get it twisted. This does not mean that because you are a smart young person, you can just go talk to everybody and, say whatever you want, thinking you own the world. Make sure that you show a healthy respect for others as well

as respect yourself. Respect all, fear none, and your words will move mountains.

"If you're passionate, people can't help but believe in it. The biggest lesson that I've learned is to do it from your heart. Let your heart speak. Be passionate, because people gravitate toward the Truth."

- Q-Tip

Cool Breeze - Handle Your Emotions and Cool Out

Get curious about your emotions. How many R&B songs have you heard in your lifetime? Have you ever heard the cliché lyric, "If loving you is wrong…I don't wanna be right." Let's break this down a little bit. If I love you and it is not good for me….I don't want anything good for me? Does this make sense? Kind of makes us question what we are really listening to doesn't it? Does this phrase mean that love is more important than Self-respect? How many times have lyrics like this been pumped up through the radio waves. Love is gonna get cha! Your emotions are gonna get cha! Your anger is gonna get cha! Your hate is gonna get cha! Your depression is gonna get cha! How do you deal with your emotions. Do you fight? Do you pull guns out on people? Do you beat people down? How do you survive painful emotions? What do you do? Is your strategy for dealing with emotions in line with your Divine Purpose? Do you have the courage to change?

In A Courage to Change: A Teen Survival Guide, the Leave out Violence Youth (L.O.V.E.) talk about changing themselves, their community, and the world. In a compilation of stories and poems, young people who have struggled and persevered show their path to true growth and well-being. The President and Founder of L.O.VE. is Twinkle Rudberg who lost her husband Da niel to an act of unforeseen violence. Twinkle was adopted, grew up in a privileged environment. She was married and had a loving family life. She describes that in September of 1972, she and her husband were out at dinner with friends. They noticed an elderly lady being attacked by a teenage boy. Her husband Daniel went to help the woman. He chased the 14 year old boy, but the boy had a knife and stabbed Daniel to death.

Twinkle could have easily blamed others for her pain and heartache, brought on by her husband's murderer. Instead she chose to look at the source of this violent act. She realized that the boy was also a victim. She decided that she wanted to do something to change the trend of violence. She wanted to give the youth a voice. Today, over 10,000 children and youth have been exposed to her programs in Canada. The introduction of their book explains L.O.V.E.'s objective:

> "To stop youth violence, targeting both the individual at risk and the community at large. Through L.O.V.E's programs in local colleges or in their own schools, teens who have been perpetrators and/or victims, or witnesses of violence (including assault, substance abuse, bullying, Self-mutilation, domestic violence) are given access to the skills, support and sense of Purpose they need to reject violent behavior. In the process they build Self-esteem and as sense of community."

Instead of drowning in our emotions, we must find creative ways to get out of problems. We call this emotional intelligence. Unfortunately, this is also another topic left out of school curriculum, which is mostly based on suppressing emotion. You can lock kids up in classrooms, but that doesn't help their emotional intelligence. Parents can try to prevent us from dabbling in the darker sides of our society, but it is inevitable that we'll be touched by darkness. The United States is a beautiful land of freedom. It does have a darker side. On the dark side, the U.S. is dark land of deception, lies, and horror. The Truth and reality is that the problems perpetuated by American culture continue on in the minds of all of us. All the violence, sexism, racism, imperialism, and Self-destructive habits portrayed in Hollywood and T.V. are pumped into the minds of so many citizens, people live out the horror.

We have to be smart enough to understand the difference between fantasy and reality. E.Q. is more important than I.Q. Emotional intelligence is more valuable in today's fast paced society where people are so over stressed that we are all time bombs waiting to explode on somebody. The things we really want in life are states of mind like happiness, peace of mind, security, and fulfillment, not a high I.Q. score and a J-O-B in a cubicle.

We have to learn to have some compassion in life. We must be compassionate for those less fortunate than us, those who wish to harm us, and those who make life difficult for us. Sometimes we all feel violence is all we have left to express our Self-worth. We are not hard for killing people, shooting people, or stabbing people, that is soft. We are hard when we can face life's situations without fear, when we can take responsibilities for our own mistakes, and when we live life on Purpose. It's hard to live a life according to your own vision, Purpose, and goals. The whole act of pursuing your own life is met with resistance in this society by others who have darkness within their own hearts and want to see you fail. Don't let people control your hot buttons. Use your Self-knowledge to dive deep into your soul and find ways to confront the issues in your life.

The world doesn't seem like such a dark place when you know what you are all about. There are all types of books and information available about how to overstand your emotions. By overstand, we mean be very conscious of your emotional

experiences to the point that you are capable of using these emotional experiences to make choices that are more beneficial to you. You don't want to be locked up in a prison as a result of a stupid argument, a few dollars, or over a dice game. You don't want to live in regret all the time after hurting people because of your emotional outbursts or violent tendencies.

Ask people around you how they perceive you. Does it seem like sometimes people do not like you? If you are always in beef and confrontations with people; there has to be a reason. We never ran from the Klu Klux Klan so why should we have to run from a black man (or any man for that matter)? Peace has to overcome violence, but the peaceful must take our sanity back. Don't let the negative overcome the positive. We may have a fight on our hands, but make sure the side you are on is righteousness and not rage and vengeance. Righteousness always prevails because it's a law of the Universe for light to shine out of darkness.

"If God gives you certain messages, you're supposed to deliver them. That's your duty. You can't just take your talent and bury it."

-Common

Principle 2

Wisdom - Livin' Off Experience

"A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense. Through knowledge its rooms are filled with all sorts of precious riches and valuables."

- Proverbs 24:3

Instead of writing you an average book about Purpose, we wanted to take you on a journey of discovering Divine Purpose for your Self. The best way to do so is to learn by your own experience. Not one book will be the only way to discover your Divine Purpose. For us, this book is just another means to spark your brain and get the message across to you that you are a human being of infinite potential and that you can tap into your Divine Purpose any second now. We can only open the door for you. It is up to you to walk through. The experiences in your life will be the ultimate sculptor of your Divine Purpose. Instead of giving you a fish, we are teaching you how to fish. We are showing you the daily habits you can use so you can quickly identify your Purpose.

We've made an effort to model some of the most outstanding achievers in our time. We don't just look at the average rapper on TV and say we want to be like them. Anybody can be famous with a little bit of luck, ass kissin', payola, and moderate talent. Too many kids think being on the T.V. or radio is success, having a college degrees is success, being a doctor, engineer, lawyer, corporate tycoon, or having money out the ass is success. Those things may indicate some level of achievement. Then again, we never really know, because nowadays we live in a debt laden world where people are in serious debt to pay for their lavish lifestyles. People have more material items for external appearance than money in the bank. Everyone's definition of success is different. It is wise to define your own success. We look for people in our society who have a very holistic approach to life. In other words, we look for leaders (meaning they have gotten there before us) who really walk their talk. These are our teachers.

We advise you to do the same. Find people in your environment that have survived the test of time and succeeded over and over again in achieving various results in their lives that you may want. Don't believe the common magazine hype about success. I remember reading the magazine article in Ebony when M.C. Hammer built his $20 million dollar home and had several cars in the driveway. Most of his cars were old re-makes, but it was the house that was the whopper. He was ballin' way before it was popular. On the other hand, he was walking a thin line between wealth and poverty, maxing out his income in

such lavish expenses and hiring an extreme number of people on his payroll. I was about twelve or thirteen at the time Ebony came out with that article. I thought that was "success." I, Bayo, was just a twelve year old.

I'm sure what was going through my mind at that age was that this was success. When I saw Hammer on VH-1 years later talking about his problems, I remembered it wasn't. Success is truly defined as the achievement of something desired, planned, or attempted. You can cook a healthy meal SUCCESSFULLY. You can communicate with your wife SUCCESSFULLY. You can make a song or album SUCCESSFULLY. Lavish homes, cars, rims, iced out jewelry, and material flashiness is X - CESS. X – CESS is success crossed out by greed and extravagance. SUCCESS is when you reach the mastery of your skill and are standing out from the crowd, receiving attention from people everywhere. X-CESS is when you make a lot of money from your achievement and you spend every last dime to prove something X-TRA about your success. Hence, you are X'd out and in a TRAP. There's nothing wrong with having the good things in life. In fact, that's what we all aim for, and we encourage you to do the same. But first, live according to your Divine Purpose, and do things that are deeply meaningful.

X - CESS is a very serious mental syndrome we are seeing in the United States, especially in today's average mainstream rapper. Much of it stems from the idea that having been marginalized so much by the mainstream, Hiphoppas try to obtain the mainstream status symbols of wealth and power in an obsessive way. We must begin to live off experience and gain wisdom. Wise men aren't very flashy. There are very successful, wealthy people, who do not have anything to prove. They solve their Self-esteem issues at home, not at the club. Hammer took a serious fall when he achieved X-CESS and ran into financial trouble. It just isn't wise to build a $20 million dollar home. Who's going to buy it if you want to sell it? How can you make your success consistent and repeatable if you max out your lavishness? The common media hype, like music videos, and magazines is more about X – CESS than success. It's all good to look at nice homes and cars. There are not many wise messages in these publications to balance the X – CESS with the Self-mastery ideals of TRUE success.

Apprenticeship is the greatest way to live off of experience and gain wisdom. It's much easier to watch somebody lead by example rather than lead by theory. Who wants to follow a theorist? How do you know if you're ever going to get results?? Sometimes it's better to just open up a small entrepreneurship to learn about business, customer service, or marketing than march off to class in a college campus daily with all the graphs, charts, textbooks, and economic symbols about supply and demand. So many people in academia have fallen into the theorist trap. Blinded by so much intellectual thinking, all practicality is lost. Nowadays, we on some Booker T. Washington type shit! What about practice? What about skill? Sometimes teaching Hiphop involves practicing a Hiphop lifestyle.

We encourage college professors in Hiphop to begin participating in Hiphop's 9 core elements. Soon, if Hiphop professors don't participate and have difficulty manifesting Hiphop, they will only be categorized as people who have studied Hiphop cerebrally. We cannot forget the Purpose of why we are the Hiphop generation. We create progress mentally, physically, and spiritually. On the other hand, if Hiphop professors choose not to participate in Hiphop's nine elements, Kultural Specialists will have to carefully critique these professor's Hiphop teachings. We live and breathe Hiphop because it's about discovering the genius within, and igniting a renaissance in a corrupt society. If a professor can't rap, write poetry, break dance, spray graf art, deejay, beatbox, wear Hiphop fashions, speak our slang, answer our questions, or show us how to make money outside of J-O-B's, then how is he or she going to teach us to BE Hiphop? The only people who can teach us how to BE Hiphop are practitioners. Either way, we still like professors who inform students about our Kulture and raise awareness about Hiphop. Most Hiphoppas are renaissance men and women anyway, so many have the skills to juggle many roles in life. Some of us are always going to shine at one element or another, but at the core our whole essence is renaissance. Soon, our scholars will reflect that as well.

Basic experience can be the best teacher. This again, is how schools damage the minds of the young. In school, we are constantly bombarded with worksheets, assignments, tests, and grades. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that learning how to create a life plan with vision, Purpose, and goals should precede ALL studies in the basic middle, high school, and college environment. But guess what would happen if kids had all their acts together for what their life dream and plan is about? They would quit school!! Kids would basically realize that America is a free enterprise system and that they have the choice of learning whatever they wish. Many would go out into the world and make mistakes and learn to make a living helping the world be a better place. Who would work in the factories and office cubicles then? We think this is what offends parents the most. Parents are so trained and worn down by their own lack of independence and their drudge work. A parent thinks if 13 year old Tyrone spends his days writing rhymes and spinning records it would be a waste. Sometimes, it seems like adults want kids to stay in school so kids don't get into the world and make mistakes like adults did when they were young. What happens when school training only teaches a young person that making mistakes are bad? In ancient Africa, there were 14 year-old men and women running Kingdoms! There are 30 year old grown ass men in America, who still live with momma playing X-Box. Hence, they are X'd out and trapped in a box. The American educational system is flawed. Learn to live off experience ya'll!

The measurement for grades is literally based on making minimal mistakes on timed tests and pressure filled days. It's the kids who screw up in school that make it in the world. Some of the flunkies tend to be the wisest. They're used to mistakes (or probably even ditching school on a regular basis), so they know there are other things to life besides straight A's. On the other

hand, some kids think they are perfect. Only, their grades are missing the Divine wisdom found in making mistakes. These kids are conditioning themselves to strive toward a mirage of intellectual completeness. There is no such thing as intellectual finality. The more kids study and study for grades, the more they get sucked into training and mental warping that leads to limitation. They get into the real world, get F's, make mistakes and they think it reflects on who they are as a person instead of their training. Get a Self-education by exploring the world and being an artist of life and a student of life. School training may seem like the wisest thing, but it ain't always the best thing!

You must gain your wisdom by seeking wise teachers, sages if you will. A sage doesn't have to be a bald Oriental man wearing a robe. A sage is simply an extremely wise person. This type of person might even be considered an old soul by many. There are Hiphop sages everywhere. If you seek a Hiphop sage, you will be truly enlightened. A sage is a great person. Seek great people and pay close attention to people who stand for something and can articulate their ideas sincerely. Even if it's not exactly what you believe in, you can learn something from ALL people. The highest forms of success are rewarded in the highest emotional states, in respect and honor, not cars and clothes. Find people who can teach you about success from the Self-mastery perspective. The technology revolutions in America have waged a war on Self-mastery. It's almost reached a point that to be a master at a craft you truly love, you must be as wise as a sage to make a living in America. How can you tell when you meet a Hiphop sage? Well, sometimes the best secrets are the one's never told.

"It's a lot harder to be Spiritual and soulful than it is to be hard."

*-Pharo*ah Monche

Dodge Tricknology - Fight Dogma

First, go watch the movie Dogma (just playin' you don't have to, this ain't school), then decide that you will fight dogma and old archaic totalitarian rules. Is it wise to follow rules that violate your Self-esteem and Self-worth? We should be living in a Democracy not a regime. Research the reasons why church is separated from state. Why is it not wise to have people who are spiritually educated as well as mentally educated? Why is it difficult to have prayer in schools? Maybe it's because some people still think their religion is right and another's is wrong. Why is world religion not taught to all the youngsters at an early age? We live in a world where people must value all the world's different religions. Teach yourself about ALL the world's religions. You will see so much beauty, culture, and love that it will be hard not to see yourself as a child of your Creator. Don't follow the traditions if the traditions are hurting your soul and make you feel like a bad person.

Churches and preachers are notorious for making kids believe they're going to hell for drinking beers, smokin' spliffs, or having pre-marital sex. These behaviors may not be in alignment with your vision, Purpose, and goals, but going to hell for a little bump and grind is a stretch. You may find hell on earth due to sickness and disease, but the fire and brimstone threats by your local church reverends are lame! First of all, what's the difference between churches and corporations? We personally cannot tell the difference anymore. So many pimps converted to pastors after the 80's that it's hard to tell. Some of those sermons are so soul stirring, and the fashion is so lavish, you would swear it was the original Mack, Goldie himself! Think for your Self.

How do you know if your opinions are really your own? We grew up for years thinking much of what our parents told us was true. If only it was easier to explore the world at an early age, much pain and chaos would be avoided. It takes a lot to be a free-thinking individual. Sometimes you have to challenge everything you believe in. Forget classrooms; the world is a classroom that will test you day in and day out. Don't get it twisted that the idea of being free means that you can just fuck all day and get high all night. There's no Purpose in the animalistic pleasures and you'll only destroy yourself. With freedom comes big responsibility. However, knowing that you are in full control of your life is sweet victory. That's what the United States is supposed to be about, each individual being in full control of his or her life.

If you are on your own in life and your life is chaotic causing you constant stress, drama, and agony, you are still a slave. You must break the chains of mental slavery. True liberation is when you are not held by the chains of dogma, money, and your own fears. Fighting dogma often results in a wild rebellion. If the founding fathers of the United States rebelled from Britain without a plan, how would the course of this country be different? Instead of telling your friends, family, and naysayers the hell with you, and moving to Hollywood or New York to chase your dream, sit back and dream again, create real reasons that are deep and meaningful to you for your decisions. Think of some of the pitfalls you might encounter. Plan ahead. After doing that, organize your rebellion. Organized revolution is always much cleaner and more successful than anarchy.

"If you call yourself a man, stand up for what you believe;
stand up for your views; don't just sit there and let things happen-especially if you have a voice that people will listen to."

-J- Live

Check Ya' Self – Know Who You Are

Do you really know who is controlling your pool of thought? Where do most of your opinions come from, T.V., Radio, parents, news, music, movies etc.? Please check ya Self before ya wreck ya Self. You may want to examine your beliefs a little more in depth. If you've only been exposed to one culture, one religion, and one tradition for all your life, you may be boxing yourself into a lonely corner which could prevent you from discovering your Divine Purpose. There's nothing wrong with being loyal to a particular set of customs, as long as a person is aware that there is nothing wrong with other customs in the world. As long as you have patience and tolerance for each of the other billions of people on Earth, you are fine. However, The only way for you to test your tolerance is to think deeply about what you believe verses what others believe and decide if it meshes with your whole philosophy.

Creating a world-view is not an easy task. It requires that you deal with the world. However, once you create a worldview you have something to stand for. Malcolm X said, "Those who stand for nothing, will fall for anything." Stand for something, but then go out and see what other people stand for…overstand?? Do not simply understand that there are other religions and cultures. Overstand by interacting with varying types of people and visiting their places of worship. Part of our uniqueness is that we have had no choice but to deal with white people and black people, religious and non-religious, racist and non-racist. Most people in the world are usually deaf, dumb, and blind to what true living is all about. It is you, the seeker, the one who is thirsty for knowledge that squeezes the most juice out of life. Unfortunately, the pop culture rules and "norms" tend to be set by analytical media influencers who view you as a statistic or demographic. It's us, Hiphoppas, the few, the chosen, the proud, who take it upon ourselves to challenge the status quo. We find it fun and it gives us something to do all day!!

"There's a real problem with the youth and a real Self-destructive mission that we're on. If we don't do something, it's going to get worse. I ain't no punk, but I believe that we could live peacefully…
I pray for a time when we are able to be proud of one another's achievements and not jealous."

-G.U.R. U. of Gangstarr

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No Diggity - Perform Self Analysis

Don't doubt yourself. Doubt your motives and strategies, but don't doubt yourself. Self-analysis can be as simple as asking questions that bring you to a better feeling about tasks you are taking on, decisions you are making, or goals that you have. If you are taking action towards something in your life, then it is obvious that you are getting some type of feedback. Think about the feedback that you are getting from the actions in your life. Do you think that if you continue to live this way it will benefit you or help you? Are you satisfied with the direction you are heading? You want to be able to see if some things you have done in the past may be affecting how you live now. It's always wise to release ourselves from the past and overstand that we can live in the present and begin preparing for the future.

So many people allow the pain from the past to stop them from taking action toward their goals. Don't be one of these people! Release yourself from the pain! It's all good. We all have had pain in life at some point or another. We've all faced rejection, met with failure, disappointments, and setback. What we all need to do more of is bounce back and focus on where we are, right now, in the present. Get yourself UP! Learn to bounce back and focus on the present. Sometimes, it's good to make a list of questions that you even have about your own situation and just start writing.

Another challenge that many face, is that they are afraid even to look back at the past even for a moment. If we can't dig a little deep and even do the slightest amount of soul searching, how are we going to uncover the wisdom within ourselves. To get to the diamond within, we must get past some of the dirt, darkness, and blockage in our way. Being a genius doesn't mean you have to beat a computer at chess, score a 1600 on the SAT, or win the Nobel Peace prize. Genius simply means extraordinary intellectual and creative power. All of us have the capability of this genius power within us. What we must do is generate the power to unleash our right intellect and creativity. Hopefully, up until now, our handbook has been helpful at getting you to see certain strategies to becoming a genius. The road may seem bumpy at times, but there is no other way. The best part is that the rewards make you forget about ALL the drama.

"The present is a product of the past. If you're living for now, today-without any relationship or respect for what happened yesterday-you put yourself at risk of repeating the same mistake."

-Mos Def

Express Ya Self – Describe Your Vivid Experiences

Picture the most vivid memories in your life good and bad. If you think about these experiences and write down certain characteristics about them that are the most clear. What about these specific experiences is causing you to remember them? Has your thought maybe changed since the memories of that past experience? The chances are that it has. If your ideas have changed, you've grown and that experience means something different to you now. What it meant, at that time, may have helped or hindered you. What it means to you now could do the same or different. Self-expression is a valuable tool to helping us come to know our Divine Purpose.

If you've kept a journal or book of rhymes that is packed with old ideas, then you have access to your Purpose. Your genius is always right under your nose. Sometimes the things that come the easiest to us are things that we overlook and disregard as non-essential. Many people take their God given natural talents for granted. It's too bad that we live in a society that really opposes the idea of Self-mastery. People are too caught up with commercialism to give themselves time to perfect a talent or skill. Don't be one of those people. Find out what your vivid experiences are and describe them to yourself. Once you have done that, think about the skill or talent you used to handle certain situations or experiences. Is this gift something you've had as a child? Is this a gift that you picked up by watching someone else? How can you continue to use this gift from now on?

Convince yourself that your mind is an expansive reservoir for intellect and creation. Don't settle for the lame ideas that human beings are like programmable robots. Advertisers want you to think as if you don't have a soul. They just pick and pluck away at your hot buttons. We sincerely hope this is not the case for you. We know there are many levels to Self-mastery. The first level is to believe in your experiences as channels to express your uniqueness. The next is for you to realize that the combination of events that has made you who you are is like a finger print. Nobody can have the same experiences as you. You simply have to take your experiences and create your own definition of what they will mean in your life. That is the essence of Self-expression.

"Whether you're Buddhist, Muslim, Yoruba, or whatever,
as long as you believe in the Supreme Being
and do right to people, that is what God is about."

- Common

Who Do You Believe in? - Examine Your Beliefs

No matter how much we may try, we cannot convince you that you are a genius! Your own belief that you are a genius will cause you to awaken the powers within yourself to prevent problems before they occur, the real essence of genius. Do your beliefs make you confident around other people or uneasy? Are you proud of your beliefs? Have you even created your own beliefs? From outer space, to sexuality, to education; we all believe something. Sometimes we may have perceptions or beliefs that may not be true according to others but they serve us anyway! We're not about to tell you what to believe in. What we will tell you is to examine what you believe in. Take a good honest look at yourself in the mirror. Is what you think, what you say, and what you do in alignment. Maybe in your notebook, you can write down some specific categories within life like human beings, politics, money, sports, religion, Spirituality, and science; or whatever you can imagine. It would be wise to take a look at categories like these separately and write some of your beliefs about each one.

After doing so, think about where you formulated these ideas. It could be from books, family, school, church, or the streets. Think about how committed you are to these beliefs. If you believe that people are mostly good, you may not be as committed to this belief as you think! If you've dealt with people that have caused you grief, you may be acting the opposite. You may be cold toward people instead of opening up conversations with them. The challenge is to make sure you have no beliefs that might hold you back from awakening to your Purpose. Sometimes it's better to be specific about beliefs that will help you. Why not start with some new beliefs, and begin to consciously act them out. Choose ideas and beliefs that will serve your vision, Purpose, and goals in the long run.

One important fact about wisdom is that if you have created a theoretical belief about something and it causes you to be afraid or uneasy, you can use real life experience to wipe it out! Let's say you have a belief that a certain group or type of people

are more likely to be racist. If you've only gotten such an idea from reading books, it may be stuck fully in your mind that similar people that you see really are racist. If you don't have experiential factual evidence, then you will never know. Now if you run into a problem, and a member from this group helps you out, part of that belief will automatically be canceled out. The stereotypes you read about in the book, or any theoretical ideas for that matter are shattered by real life being, doing, having, seeing, feeling, hearing, touching, tasting, and intuition. Being in the world gives you wisdom and experience to develop solid beliefs.

"Everything we do, we try to think,
think about the effect of it today and tomorrow."

-I Self Divine of Micranots

Jedi Mind Tricks - Control Your Own Mind

Is it us, or is there some serious mind control going on in America? We don't know about you, but we like to control our own mind. Call us crazy! Damn, we were only born with one mind, can we at least enjoy it in peace! Not so fast. We live in America, the land of the free, and home of the mental slave. For some odd reason there is a price for personal mind control. Are you willing to pay the price to control your own mind? We know that it takes freedom and bravery to control your own mind. It's really not about conspiracy and pointing fingers. We cannot tell you exactly who's attempting to control your mind. We just know that mind control occurs on a regular basis within our society. Are you a victim? Well, if you're reading this book, you are either a past victim or never have been a victim (which is nearly impossible if you've been exposed to any T.V. or radio). Right now, as you read these words, someone somewhere is thinking about how to influence your general demographic. We are all deep in politics. We can choose to see it or stay asleep. At least we have a choice.

That's all America is about anyway: choice. As long as we have the choice, then we're straight. The frightening fact is that some of us have the choice of avoiding mind control, but we don't! Physical slavery was a horrendous way to live. Mental slavery isn't any better! We find it hysterical that the candy isles in the grocery store are placed at the level of small children so kids will grab at them when mommy or daddy is shopping. We laugh when we think about how high school kids are still running to the cafeteria in this day and age! We joke around all the time about people going to work day in and day out, only to get back from work and watch an average of 5-7 hours of T.V. We are saddened at the lost community time for worthwhile hobbies and loved ones, to see the next episode of Comic View! We don't laugh because it's funny. We laugh because laughter is the cure for our pain. It is painful to see so many problems going on in the United States, and so many capable, talented people, who have the skills to fix them sitting on the sideline watching others get rich on T.V. Get rich yourself!

If you've decided that you are going to be mentally awake and you see people who are mentally dead, the world sort of becomes a little sad. All we can do is jest and jive about it. Humor is our only anecdote for the pain of realizing that so many valuable souls have been lost to mind control. We want people to see the light of wisdom and focus on their Divine life Purpose. The more people in our society focus on their own Purpose, the less people we have to worry about running into with a 9 Millimeter ready to rob us. The more people work together in making their own lives happy, the less we have to worry about people driving on the beltway at 5:00 p.m. with road rage. What's worse is that when you are mentally free, you want people to see the joy of your freedom but they would rather follow the crowd.

We don't know what you think, but the crowd is like a herd of sheep! Don't be a fuckin' sheep! Think for yourself, achieve for yourself and re-evaluate the whole society you live in. What do you think the message was at the end of John Singleton's movie Higher_Learning: UNLEARN. It didn't just mean forget that you were racist or have been severely mis-educated. Unlearning also means a constant and never ending stripping away all false perceptions about yourself and those around you in order to continually strive for a Truth, if not the Truth. We'll never know the one and only Truth. We will find a Truth that make sense to us. If many people find a Truth that at least makes sense to themselves, then we can all sit at a table of diversity and discuss the implications of each of our perceptions possibly being the Truth.

We live in capitalism, what do you expect!? The war for your mind is waged daily. You walk outside and see liquor billboards, broken bottles, ads on busses, and bus stops. You walk into a grocery store and everything imaginable is set up to influence your choices. We face so many bombarding messages of companies wanting to grab a piece our attention that sometimes sitting out in nature is the best detoxification program. One of the best things that you can do to avoid mind control is to stop and think about the images and messages that flash in front of you. What tactic or technique is being used to control you? What can you do to reverse this tactic? We must have mental counter tactics! Maybe sometimes avoiding certain locations

or nasty habits might help. We don't want you to be a slave to discipline either! Drinking alcohol won't kill you right away. You know your own limits. The key is to realize that if you can limit negative influence in your life as much as possible, you are helping yourself tremendously. We think our vision, soul, Divine Purpose, and goals are worth it. What about you? How much do you truly love your life? What are you willing to do to reclaim your mind and live a life on Purpose?

Life is really all about doing what your deepest desires tell you to do. We don't mean those flimsy sensual desires, we mean those desires of your soul. The desire to make a difference in the world is paramount. There is also the desire to be secure and live with peace of mind. There's the desire to control your own thoughts and your environment. There's the desire for your safety and well-being, as well as the safety and well being of your family. Embrace these desires. These are the desires that give you something to live for and to die for. Do what you want. Don't settle for less, because you haven't found the answers, or you can't keep yourself mentally sharp enough to follow through on your plans. Your plans are the ONLY thing that matter. Because, until you live out your life in fulfillment, you will either take away energy from people you encounter or make their lives miserable. Mind control is real and it is up to you to control your own mind by any means necessary.

"I'm still trying to figure myself out, like most people…because I'm still living and learning…"

- Lauryn Hill

Be A Student of Life **– Learn from Your Experiences**

The best part about being human is that we are human. We've been given life! It is our utmost duty and obligation to be a student of life. We don't want to be passive. There is no glory in being a passive person. You must remember that the only people who don't make mistakes are the people who never try in the first place. Forget about critics and naysayers. They are on the sidelines. Time and time again we've seen history set by great people in the world who didn't believe in failure! That's right. They don't believe in failure. We don't believe in failure either. We believe in outcomes and results, but not failure. If something even comes close to what we would call a failure, we just find a way around it. The bottom line when it comes to being a student of life is that you have to stay on course. You have to uphold the mission of your Divine Purpose.

Mistakes and seeming failures are friends. Study your mistakes and seeming failures. Do you frequently repeat the same ones? Is there some information you need to identify or locate to prevent you from having such a repetition? Tony Robbins always uses a popular phrase: "If you knew you could not fail what would you try?" Try, Try, Try, and try again. Aaliyah (R.I.P.) made the chorus "If at first you don't succeed, dust yourself off and try again." That's what it's all about. If you don't get to where you want to be right away, just dust yourself off. As long as you have a plan to execute and re-execute, you are going to get what you want out of life. That's our word for real. We know what it feels like to have car accidents at the wrong time, to be behind on bills, to have phones cut off, to not be able to pay rent, to skip meals, and working meaningless jobs. All of these experiences are Spiritual muscle builders.

Spiritual muscles? You may be thinking to yourself how do you measure Spiritual muscles? Well, look at the events you've been through and survived. This too shall pass. Resiliency is something spectacular. Persistence is what defeats life's constant test of your commitment. It's all related to the Universe and energy. When you exert Spiritual energy, discipline, focus, and resolve into the Universe; the Universe responds with challenges, difficulty, and hardship. It's a Divine law. Don't hate the playa, hate the game. Your Universal Goddess just wants to mold you into a better individual. You think it was pleasure for your mother to give birth to you? Hell no!! Why do you think they call giving birth labor! Life is work. You must be labor ready….and we don't mean the temporary employment office where we've all worked at some point in time.

Your mother probably told you so for the past several years, any damn way, when ya lazy ass keeps playing X-Box in her house. If such a simple act like giving birth is painful, what makes you think other acts of creation in the Universe will not create friction, strain, and resistance. Think of the beauty of all this. If there weren't people like your mother who gave birth to you; where would you be? What if other people never put their blood, sweat, and tears into information, technology, or legacies for you to follow? We must revisit the words of Fredrick Douglass time and time again: "Where there is no struggle, there is no progress."

In fact, as Nightjohn, we are a living testament to struggle. The fact that this book has made it to your hands is our struggle and endurance manifested. It was no easy feat to write this book. Our struggle; blood, sweat, and tears went into us birthing this creation for other people like you to benefit. There are rewards for us. However, those rewards were difficult to see during the rigors, discipline, and hardship it took to write our book. There are trade offs. There are sacrifices. There are upsets, setbacks, and hopeless days. They all build your Spiritual muscles until you come out Spiritually swoll and mentally tough. Adversity is the crucible for rock hard genius. This is the cosmic dance of nature that we're talking about. Survive and rise up! That's what we are all here for. In that struggle for survival, it may hurt sometimes, and it may not be easy, but the willpower and persistence will soon attract the Universe to give you H.E.R. blessings.

"We gotta add on with some skills, 'cause when you talk about Self-determination, that means you responsible for your own shit."

- Stic.Man of Dead Prez

Be a Scribe – Write Something, Anything

As you are reading this book, you are participating in your life story. We have now become a part of your life story. What will it mean? What is the Purpose of you reading this book? Are you even reading it? It is estimated that 10% of people actually read a book from cover to cover. Thank you for staying with us thus far! You are a 21st Century something. Are you a philosopher? Are you a Pimp? Are you a hustler? Are you a drug dealer? Are you a hoe? Are you a King? Are you a Queen? Are you a Goddess? Are you Hiphop? You've created your story up until now. You are responsible 100% for your happy….or sad ending. You will also create your story after now. Our aim is that what we write inspires you to write a more adventurous story. Our vision is that we have so many Hiphop stories out in the world that legacies upon legacies are built. Write something about your life. Everyday you are writing a new script into the action flick of your life. What are you writing about? Murder? Suspense? Comedy? Drama? Sex? Betrayal? Tragedy? What else could you be writing about? Success? Health? Love? Awareness? Wealth? Self-Mastery? Sometimes it's o.k. to document the pain you see in the world. It's just as equally important to shed light on the brighter side of life and keep your life in perspective. Be positive sometimes.

The great aspect of being a genius is that you have the intellectual and creative power to form and shape your own reality. It takes concentration and focus to create your own reality, but it is well worth it. We have been creating our reality constantly for about four years now. At times people would not listen to us, or simply could not see our vision. Sometimes loneliness is the price of genius. Sometimes you can be so far ahead of your times that people mistake your work for blasphemy and heresy. If you walk into school and tell you teacher or professor you are a genius, they will either laugh at you or say some remark to bring you into reality. Reality is cool, but not their reality. Your reality is what we're dealing with now. What we want to do is create something better from the reality you face. Maybe people criticize you because they have not tapped into their own Divine Purpose and genius.

Is it wrong for a sixteen year old to be extremely more intelligent than a forty year old teacher or professor? Is it wrong to be a genius? Fellow geniuses follow us! All of us together, are the ones that are going to change the world, while all these stuffy intellectuals sit on their asses and watches on the sidelines. If a forty year old man decided he wanted to be a teacher 20 years prior, and now he has fulfilled that mission; what right does he have to teach a student, who has spent the last 4 years mastering the art of lyrical flow, that lyricism is not genius! Since when are we forced to pick the intelligence we are measured by! If your intelligence is music and you have never taken music, written music, had a chance to explore music, or researched music; what chance do you have of tapping into your genius mind? Remember that in this book we will discuss ten different forms of intelligence. If it makes you feel any better, this book is in your hands, because we possess the forms of intelligence that are not valued by the systems in which we were educated. Our intelligence was valuable to our people but not to corporate America's training ground…public education.

We hallucinate that you possess high doses of intrapersonal intelligence (Self-knowledge), musical intelligence, bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, verbal – linguistic intelligence, and interpersonal intelligence, natural intelligence, Spiritual intelligence, and existential intelligence. These are all the forms of intelligence that school disrupts and suppresses! Now, we're not suckas when it comes to logical-mathematical or spatial-mathematical intelligence either! If there is more than one style of genius, what we want is a choice to be the genius we wanna be! All we want is freedom! Help us break the chains!

Our major beef with the powers that be is that whichever way we are educated when we are young is going to play a heavy factor in our Self-esteem and ability to achieve in the world. Why should our growth be stunted by a racist band teacher, an overzealous math professor, and an education lacking music or art? For those of us with direct African roots; why is Africa not studied in schools? Does the United States Board of Education have a problem with the phrase: "The Blacker the Berry, The Sweeter the Juice!"

We went through our high school years not hearing a peep about the influences Ancient African Civilization has made on society. Yet, if we go to Washington D.C. all the monuments and buildings are modeled off of Egyptian sculptures. Ohh…so they want to rob our ancestors, teach us their version of history, and take all the money while brown, yellow, and red homeless men and women sleep in the streets of Washington, D.C., our nation's capitol? Hold up! We ain't gonna let it go down like that. We were the beginning and we shall determine the end! College is even more depressing. Serious issues start popping up in college, especially when tenured research professors start brainwashing students with propaganda.

We're tired of being lied to. We know that you are tired of being lied to as well. We wanted you to know we feel your pain. If you have not had any pain due to mis-education, then we want you to know about our pain. We represent the voices of millions of urban youth and oppressed humans. Oppression is worse than the grave. It's better to live and die for a noble cause,

than to live and die a slave! We want you to know that your creator says you are a genius and you don't need any other approval from American public schools, tests, institutions, churches, or authorities to declare your ingenuity. Stake your claim! Take your genius lifestyle and flaunt it! Don't be humble in the presence of those who which to see you suppress your genius mind!! The Hiphop Driven Life will take you as far as you are willing to take Hiphop. We are renaissance people. We're geniuses and proud of the fact that our intelligence is accumulated outside of totalitarian regimes.

"Maintain your focus." ***- K***RS - ONE

Freestyle Rap – Use In "Can" Tations

When the going gets tough you gotta have some words to spit into the Universe to help you get through. You have to lay your head on the soft bosom of your Universal mother. Both men and women can pray. Both men and women can rap. Rap does not only consist of what you see on T.V. and the Radio. You don't even have to rap around somebody. One day parents will be walking into the bedroom of their children saying: "Did you say your rhymes before going to bed?" One day there will be people sitting at a dining room table and they will say: "We thank the Goddess for this food, as we eat, rap, and swallow Truth." Prayers will be raps and raps will be prayers. Call us crazy. Call us what whatever you wish. We know that the power of magical words spoken forth has been around for ages. Just because we have beats and rhymes now, does that change the impact of our words?

We talked about mind control earlier. One thing you can do now, to prevent yourself from falling victim to mind control, is to condition your mind through positive spoken word affirmations. We call magical words spoken forth in "can" tations. It's the emotion, energy, and enthusiasm you put behind the words that give you the tremendous release of positive energy to counter the negative. Say to yourself "I know I can, be what I wanna be!" On a regular basis, try to spit freestyle raps while alone. When you are running, say some type of rhyme to keep your mind focused on helping your body. You may sound stupid at first! So what! Keep doing it until you have the power to change your own personal reality. When your day is better because you spit your freestyle raps and you relieved stress, you'll thank us.

Have you ever thought about listening to instrumentals in the car instead of the radio. What a concept! You can practice your freestyle raps while driving or while you are stuck in traffic during the chaos of rush hour. You can turn chaos into K-OS. Rush hour will become Knowledge Of Self hour for you. If you ask us, it's a hell of a way to beat the drudgery of the rat race. Be careful not to get to careless with this idea. We don't want you bobbin your head to the beat and forgetting that your first priority is to drive! Nevertheless, be creative with the opportunities you have to recite your rhymes or spit freestyles. Don't limit yourself by thinking that you can't rap unless you're in a studio or you have a sampled bed of music. Your own voice is the best music there is. When you can play your voice, you know you can really rap. When you can play your voice with positive emotion and enthusiasm; you are going places. Affirmations are not the end all be all to positive thinking. They are definitely a key component though. Affirm your current success and future success. Nothing beats the life experience and wisdom found in discovering the strength and beauty of your own voice.

"Like the man always says, "Any fool can learn from his own mistakes, but the wise man must learn from the mistakes of others."

-RZA of Wu-Tang Clan

Don't Sleep - Learn from Mistakes of Others

There are billions of people in the world making mistakes as you read this! Go find some of them and make sure you don't repeat their mistakes. That's about as simple and straightforward as we can put the concept of using insight to learn (or you can visit one of our mentors Insight (www.insight.fm). Insight can give you insight on mistakes to avoid. Why reinvent the wheel? What's the Purpose of repeating mistakes? Don't be too lazy to find out if there's anyone who has tried the same goal, plan, or project. Don't sleep on the valuable lessons you can learn from other people. Success leaves clues and so does failure. Too often, we want to know the next big secret to success. Sometimes the next big secret to success is finding out how to avoid the next big failure. You'll never be able to see all the traps before they come. What you can do is see as many as humanly possible, learn from them and move on. If you make one mistake for every two mistakes you would have made without someone's advice, then you are doubling your speed of achievement and excellence. Now, instead of that project taking you one year, it's going to take you six months. In The Hiphop Driven Life, we value our time, money, and energy enough to find ways to help prevent you from

prevent from wasting any of your time, money and energy.

As it pertains to your Divine Purpose, people who have had serious setbacks and losses can provide some type of insight for you as well. If someone has been through a bad relationship or felt the effects of not accomplishing a goal, maybe they can share with you a larger Purpose or higher meaning they were able to get out of the situation. If you know someone who was a violent criminal and changed their life around. You can learn the wisdom from their turnaround.

For example, we saw what happened to Mase when he decided to take a hiatus from his professional rap career. Mase taught us that the fast paced lifestyle has some negative side effects that we should all be aware of. Does it mean that we have to experience those side effects first hand before we get the wisdom from his progress? Not at all. Mase gave us insight that there was no Purpose to smoking and drinking heavily, fucking groupies all day, and getting blinded by the X-CESS money and fame. We should be grateful for the wisdom Mase displayed in showing us how to make progress in life. Unfortunately, many people have to experience pain and distress first hand before they "get wise," so they probably won't even pay attention to what Mase went through. Some might just think he was looking for an escape to make money as a re-born Christian. They may not even understand the prosperity teachings in his rhymes after he came back into the game. We see Mase's story as a parable in the Platinum Age scriptures, but you know how geniuses roll!! As attuned Hiphoppas, we got the message bright and clear. We learned our lesson from Mase's mistakes. I'm sure he would be glad that all of his heartache and pain was not in vain. Maybe that is his Divine Purpose…to teach us what can happen if we let our desire for pleasure get out of control. See how things are connected…..

"Loyalty is what's missing from the game right now.
I miss niggas with loyalty. I miss sharing.
Now no matter what you're doin', you don't know who really loves you, and that's, like, the worst part of this business."

-Mase

Principle 3

Awareness - Stay Awake!

"Bring the mind into sharp focus and make it alert so that it can immediately intuit Truth, which is everywhere. The mind must be emancipated from old habits, prejudices, restrictive thought processes and even ordinary thought itself."

-Bruce Lee

Keep your head up with eyes and ears open! Listen twice as much you speak. Observation will help your Hiphop Driven Life. Observe what is going on around you and determine what it means. Under all the commotion is a Purpose you can fulfill at any moment. Don't get caught sleeping. Sleep is the cousin of death. Prepare for the sneak attack. Sleep with one eye open. Are you starting to see a theme here?! Most of your thoughts come from the feedback of your outer environment. What are you allowing to penetrate your mind, body, and soul? Do you only listen to one type of music? Do you only visit certain places? Are you open enough to be around people that have opinions and beliefs directly opposite to yours.

We like to use Apostolic chu***rches as a good example of this principle. Have you ever gone to a holiness church, where they catch the holy ghost and dance around the church? (Our point is not to mock or make fun of these type of churches.) We only use this type of church as an example for contrast. If you have gone to these churches, were you aware of the whole experience? Sometimes we have found that being an outsider in an environment can really teach you much about who you are and who you want to be at the deepest level. Try sitting still in one of these holiness churches while everyone is fainting, shouting, dancing, and running around you. It***'s quite uncomfortable. You feel like you are spoiling the party or something. Yet, it's also very liberating that you overstand what's happening. It's not that you don't believe in Spirit. You just believe that your Spirit is o.k. how it is, still and calm. In these churches, the immediate response would be to pretend and do what everyone else does. When in Rome, do what the Romans do right?? Not necessarily. If there is something you need to learn about standing on your own and preserving your dignity for YOUR life's Purpose, it may be necessary to keep your cool and observe.

Life has so many lessons to teach us. We should be learning the next lesson every moment alive. Awareness is about absorbing all the intelligence we can from our Divine presence. We truly are Spirits having a physical experience on earth. Isn't that liberating!? We have everything we need to feel a sense of Purpose within us. Our brai***ns are like transistor radios waiting for the next message from Infinite Intelligence. Is your brained tuned in? The revolution will not be televised. It will only be brought to you by brainwaves! It***'s up to you to keep your brain sharp and tune into the right frequency and hear your inner being.

What if your Divine Purpose is to be the next great musician, emcee, singer, doctor, sculptor, architect? How do you know, unless you isolate your sense of perception to receive the messages the Universe is sending you? We cannot rely on other people to help us find our Purpose. Sometimes we even feel like living for other people is our ONLY Purpose. There are many sides to life. Serving and giving to others is one of the highest forms of greatness we achieve. We also have that same responsibility to be aware of messages we get for our own individual selves. Listen for those messages. Keep an eye out and be determined to read between the lines and find that message that is meant specifically for you.

"Sometimes you've got to come out of an environment and sit yourself down and think about what you really want to do. Because life is real and you can die out here. A lot of people think it's cool, man, but the street life is not the life for a person- for anybody. White, black…you can die. And once you dead, you ain't got nothing."

-Project Pat

Stay On Point - Be Conscious of All of Your Senses

Hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil. Hear righteousness, see righteousness, and speak righteousness. One way to have some control over all of your senses is to know them very well, so at least you know what you are blocking out when you decide to explore the inner world! Our senses are tricky. They can block us from obtaining what's most important to us if we aren'

t careful. We want to filter out the negative, but not close our minds so much that we box ourselves in a corner. The road to salvation is as sharp as a razor's edge. We have often pondered why our Creator has given us senses.

Part of our quest of being geniuses and becoming mature is to grow. Because we are Spirits having a physical existence, as we grow, we learn to use the vehicle of our body. We learn to walk, speak, and behave. This learning alone pulls our attention to our physical senses. It is wise for us to learn to interpret the signals as best we can. The better we interpret signals we read from our outer environment, the better we will operate with our physical body on earth.

It seems like all the things that are immediately enticing to our senses could cause disaster if we indulge in them! What could be the reason for this? We cannot blame our Creator for giving us the senses of vision, hearing, smell, taste and touch. We can be slightly suspicious of people who have used our own senses against us. In our society, we've gotten to the point that even our most basic senses are inundated and overwhelmed. We've lost the subtlety of our senses. If we aren't choking on exhaust fumes, we're smoking a cigarette. If we're not watching a movie, we're watching T.V. If we're not listening to the radio, we're listening to a C.D. If' we're not drinking a soda, we're eating a steak. If we're not "pussy poppin'" in the club, we're looking up porn on the internet. Many people are slaves to their own senses.

Many righteous thinkers advocate that we simply stop indulging in our senses, so we don't destroy our selves. This is one approach. We're coming to the realization that it's not our senses alone causing us pain and grief. Our pain and grief is coming from the manipulation of our senses by outward forces that don't have our best interest in mind. Our senses are being attacked by individuals who are greed driven. In our sloppy civilization, people are after extreme profits. Many individuals and corporations will do anything to get those profits. We live in a fast food nation. What can we say? Our senses have the power to influence our decisions. If we see a commercial, hear a jingle, smell a burger, taste a sample of chocolate, and touch the display….we'll buy it! What happens when we buy it? (Besides the fact that we may be using plastic credit cards…another story). When we buy it, someone profits. It's simple capitalism. Why should we be surprised? Not many people take the time to analyze it. That's what Hiphop geniuses are for!

We must always remember that attuned Hiphoppas began with a sight. It was the Sight within the minds of young Black and Latino youth in the South Bronx that was the starting point of all we have in Hiphop to this day. This Sight has even been re-born to a conscious awakening as Hiphop has come to know itself. The true sight that Hiphop originates from is a sight that is Omnipresent and powerful. One acronym we use is H.I.P.H.O.P. as Holy Integrated People Having Omnipresent Power. Hiphop is a collective consciousness, so the sight must remain in our hearts and minds at all times. The sight allows us to escape mental slavery. We are referring to Hiphop beyond entertainment.

"I don't listen to radio or watch T.V. much;
I'm not in a state of mimicry you know what I'm saying?"

-***Missy "Misde***meanor" Elliott

Keep the Sight – Enhance Your Sense of Vision

Part of the secret to being a genius is learning to enliven your experiences. Have you discovered your inner vision? Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years? In the next 10 years? In the next 20 years? You must not allow your inner vision to be vague and blurry. You must visualize the prosperity and Purpose you want in your life now. Do so with crystal clarity and focus so that you can slowly but surely make this vision a reality. Perhaps one way to sharpen your inner vision is to start with your outer vision. If you have trouble visualizing, learn to practice by fixing your eyesight on certain objects, and opening and closing your eyes again and again.

For example, if you want to visualize a lamp. Look at the lamp until you have a clear picture of it in your mind. Once you think you can remember all the details of the lamp, slowly close your eyes. You may or may not be able to maintain the vision of the lamp in your inner vision. Closing your eyes again, try and remember what the lamp looked like. Can you at least have a vague glimpse of the lamp in your mind? Visualization is never perfect. Some people can visualize with their eyes open taking their mind to a different place. Our inner vision is a combination of our memories, our imagination, and our foresight. Imagination is one of the greatest powers of the human mind. We can apply knowledge we know, think ahead, and plan. As long as we pay attention to our results, we can accomplish just about anything.

Our eyes really are the windows to our soul. Keep your eyes sharp. In a subtle way, our intelligence can also be attributed to how keen our senses are. Our eyes are extremely powerful sensing organs. Even if we lose eyesight; other senses like hearing, smell, and touch tend to become more keen. We would still feel incomplete. Our vision is so important that sometimes we have to be very careful to the images we subject ourselves to.

Find simple ways to observe nature. Go to a park or the woods and sit still on a bench. You may even want to try going near a lake, river, or the ocean. Observe the simple aspects of nature. Stare off in the distance. Look up at the clouds sometimes.

Let your mind wonder. Do you have any questions about nature? Maybe observation may give you some insight into Mother Nature. Sometimes nature is the closest tangible substance we have that connects us to our Creator. Live to see more things. Never get in a pattern where you do the same exact things every single day. Find ways to enhance the scenery around you.

Imagination truly is more important than knowledge. If you can't go into nature, you can also imagine beautiful scenes in your mind. Have you ever been to the beach? Have you ever been in nature at all? Even if you haven't, you may have seen the beach or nature in the movies. Your mind is powerful. Those memories can become just as vivid in your own mind, even if you haven't physically been in the desired beautiful scene. Imagine you are at the beach. What would you see? You may see waves crashing, people walking back and forth; or seagulls. You can use your powerful imagination for peace of mind. All you have to do is think about the ideal scene you want to create in your mind and you definitely can create it. Remain focused on the beauty of accomplishment, and your life experience will be beautiful.

In your subconscious mind, you have pictures and images running everyday. You may not be aware of these pictures and images, but they are there with you. Hopefully, you don't have too many negative pictures and images in your mind. Your current circumstances may have been scripted by the type of pictures that you hold steadfast in your vision. Learn to think about positive pictures in your consciousness. Sometimes our survival is dependent upon us seeing experiences in our mind differently than the outward environment. Inner vision is very important to have. A Mastermind is someone who can look beyond the outward appearance of poverty, while being grateful and seeing abundance in the relation of all things. Everything is everything, so the true prosperity is being grateful and knowing that abundance is in all. Truth is seeing wealth regardless of appearances of poverty.

"Positivity and peace is not a bus stop you get off at. You gon' have to work on it every day for the rest of your life. 'Cause the crap seeps in. I don't care how grounded you are-it seeps in."

-*Ji*ll Scott

Keep Your Ear To the Streets – Enhanced Hearing

Solitude and silence is a beautiful experience. Get quiet as much as you can. Some people have a very difficult time sitting in a room alone by themselves for a few minutes let alone several hours. All people are a combination of both being extroverts and introverts. Remember that silence is something that nourishes our souls and helps us make decisions about our deepest desires. You have to listen to your inner being, just as much as you listen for gunshots or the *sound of da police!* Just as much as your ears are meant to protect you from danger, your inner hearing is meant to take you toward a deep feeling of Divine Purpose. Listen to your gut. Listen to your emotions.

Of course, there are differences between hearing and listening. Many people walk around in our society hearing everything from gossip to good news. Few people actually listen for meaning. When someone is talking to you, don't wait for your next opportunity to say something. Listen. So many conversations in our society turn into verbal tennis matches. We have experienced them ourselves! Sometimes we've talked on the phone for hours and hours without shutting up! We always check ourselves though. We find ways to take breaks from our heated discussions to listen to each other and our inner selves. Eighty-percent of business success and success in life for that matter is based on communication between people. Do not take your ears for granted! Like the old saying says, you have two ears and one mouth for a reason!

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of listening closely to Hiphop lyrics. We may lose out on some of this nourishment because some of us only like to just roll in pimped out rides to rap music! Hiphop means so much more to A.K. and I. We listen to every word an Emcee has to say. Wise men and women (geniuses) are very careful with their speech and also what they are willing to listen to. Who is your favorite Hiphop artist and why? When was the last time you sat down or put on some head phones and listened deeply to the message of this artist? If your favorite artist is focused more on making you dance, the lyrics may not be important to you. Regardless, if you listen to any form of Hiphop you will learn something. It may be a path you don't want to follow or you may discover your Divine Purpose from the words of an Emcee. Just like in the real world, there are both negative and positive influences in Hiphop Kulture and music. Your Divine Creator gives you the choice of path you want to take. You are responsible for the consequences of your thoughts and deeds..

Being open to a variety of music is also critical to living a Hiphop driven life. Great Hiphop artists have an overall appreciation for all genres of music. Great Human beings have an appreciation for ALL genres of culture. Let your Self explore reggae, blues, disco, bluegrass, country, classical, rock-n-roll, jazz, techno, and gospel etc. If you don't like a certain type of music, at least you'll be able to articulate why you don't like it. Better yet, by being curious, you may find music that is very pleasing to your sense of hearing. If a certain type of music is pleasing to your listening, then it may be connected to your Divine Purpose. Musical intelligence is probably one of the most underrated forms of intelligence because it is not emphasized in schools enough. Hiphop is full of people who have musical intelligence. The expression of rap music comes from lack of musical instruments. Many

emcees flow a capella. Our voices are music. However, it is our responsibility to appreciate it, document it, and measure it. We cannot expect people who don't understand Hiphop to tell us what our music means to the world. Only you can tell the world what your music means. Likewise, only WE can tell the world what OUR music means. Learn to listen to Hiphop that is made by Hiphoppas for Hiphoppas.

"We're not susceptible to those types of things [drugs] anymore. We evolved in the game. We beat it. And if you out there on some type of drug, you need to get yourself clean and get yourself right."

-Layzie Bone of Bone Thugs-N-Harmony

So Fresh and So Clean – Enhance Ya Sense of Smell

Aroma therapy is important in life. Why do you think so many women and men spend money on cologne, perfumes, lotion, deodorant, and soap; to smell good! We don't want to be around bad smells. It's a natural human instinct. Having a sense of smell can protect us as well. If we are around toxic chemicals or fumes, our bodies need to know if this is good for us or not. If something smells bad, we don't want to be around it. It may harm or kill us! Skunks use their nasty odor to prevent threats to their lives. We can enhance our sense of smell or let it be dulled by city smog, fumes, and air pollution.

Keep nice aromas in your home or work environment. (Our favorite is French Vanilla candles). Nothing is better than entering a bathroom, kitchen, or dining room that smells good. You put your mind at ease when you surround yourself with aromas that are pleasing to your olfactory senses. We used to sell cologne oils and people would always ask us, "What are you wearing? It smells so good!" Think of the aura around yourself as including smell. People are going to smell you coming. Their either going to run the other way or come toward you! We would hope that they would be attracted by your scent.

We are always talking about the powerful aroma of roses. Women are even like roses. Roses need sunlight, water, and rich soil so they can grow. But if you grab them the wrong way their thorns will cause you to bleed! Likewise ya'll women need attention, affection, and understanding so you can grow. But if we treat you the wrong way you'll make us bleed! Somehow the rose is a Universal symbol of all that is pleasant and sensual. Do you realize that the electrical energy from the live nutrients in a rose is close to 250-300 Megahertz of energy? Our organs, neurons, and cells all operate off of a similar electrical current. On average each of our organs operates on between 70-90 megahertz of energy.

When you smell a rose, you are inhaling this energy. That's why they are pleasant and make you feel so good ladies. Our emotions are tied into our biochemistry and neurons. When you smell a rose, you ignite that natural biochemistry with intense stimulation. We suggest that you get some roses and practice. (Somebody's bound to be selling them at an intersection near you, not a bad hustle if you know the "currency" of roses). Why do you think you've always heard the old cliché phrase, " Wake up and smell the roses." Wake up and smell life! It's so fresh and so clean. Your brain could be activated to new inventions and discoveries just by one rose.

"I was used to gang-banging in Compton, so I just took it to the record business. But now that gang shit is dead. There ain't no roses blooming out of that negativity, man. And people don't want to hear it now, anyway."

-D J Quick

You Feelin' This – Enhance Your Sense of Touch

Are you feelin' this book? We hope so. We didn't sit behind a cubicle and write it for pencil pushers. We wrote this book for living geniuses in the Hiphop generation, people who enjoy real life experiences. Gods on the streets, revolutionaries raising hell on college campuses, African informants on wall street. We are writing for people who like experiences that make their blood rush and their heart beat. This book is from all of our senses to all of your senses. We want you to not only read, but to feel this book influence and nourish your soul. Our mission is simply not just to inform, but also to invigorate, inspire, empower, enlighten, and awaken. So are ya'll feelin us…?? Anybody can write a book. We're here to touch your life in a meaningful way. We're rockin' ourselves as we write this! We know you'll be bobbin your head as you read it!

Our skin is a powerful organ just like our eyes. Don't take your skin for granted. Be gentle with your skin more often. Sometimes we have to have thick skin, sometimes we have to have sensitive skin. Our skin sends us messages just like all our other senses. That's why we don't stick our hands in pots of boiling water. It would hurt a little bit. Babies are born into the world with the softest skin of all. Somehow as we get older, our skin changes. In a sense, we're kind of like trees always growing, developing, and changing.

We aren't about to get touchy feely in this book. That's not the aim here. Just think about your sense of touch and explore textures in your life. By simply being aware of your sense of touch, you can gain more understanding about yourself and your body. The more you understand about your Self and your body, the more you can pull yourself into different states of mind to

expand. In a Hiphop Driven Life, it's not absolutely mandatory that you practice extreme discipline and totally ignore the needs and urges of your flesh. However, don't get it twisted. Sometimes, you have to overcome your flesh to meet higher aims in life, even if temporarily.

It is best for us to understand how to get over the initial discomfort of things that may not feel good but may be very good for us. For example, exercise is always difficult at first. Yet, after we do exercise our bodies feel relaxed and whole. Nature works in mysterious ways. We should do things that are good for us, as well as things that feel good. We should be a little more careful about doing things that aren't good for us that feel good. If we are doing things to ourselves that do not feel good and are not good for us like smoking, overeating, and getting excessively drunk, then we may need help. There's nothing wrong with that. Sometimes you have to reach out and touch someone to get to your genius. Sometimes someone has to reach out and touch you to get to your genius. Either way, as long as you feel in life you are o.k. The worst thing that can happen is to try and go through life without feeling anything. We all have to give a little in order to get a little. Miracles happen. We're all touched by Angels.

"Don't take drugs." - Saafir

Outrageous Flavors - Enhance Your Sense of Taste

Only Hiphoppas could start an ice cream parlor in New Jersey. The Outsidaz established Outrageous Flavors featuring Hiphop flavors like Rah Digga's "Imperial Chocolate," Outsidaz "Chocolate Chip U Up," and Eminem's "Vanilla No Ice." What would Hiphop be without flavor? Taste is an important thing whether it be for sneakers, hats, a car, decorations, or a house. We all have our own taste for how we like things. Likewise where would our mind be if we couldn't taste food and drink? Our taste is responsible for helping us overstand what we are putting into our body. Different tastes allow us to distinguish the different foods we put into our body. We might as well think of the foods we eat as chemicals. Anything that we put into our body has a biochemical reaction with our body. We cannot deny that.

Although taste can be such a pleasurable thing, it can also be one of our greatest weaknesses. Why do you think so many Americans suffer from the effects of being overweight. For example, if we eat for taste alone, we could be putting some very damaging chemicals into our body. Remember how mind control works? Mind control is an attack on our senses to manipulate our senses. We can't be certain, but we have a hallucination that fast food contains special ingredients to entice people with taste to come back for more and more. Be careful about eating things that may taste irresistibly good; but could have disastrous effects on your internal organs. It's sad to see 60-70% of Americans challenged with weight problems. Nothing tastes as good as feeling good feels. Our Divine Purpose is to eat so that we may live, not live so that we may eat whatever we want, just because it tastes good. Ninety percent of the health problems of American's would vanish if people control their dietary habits. Look at Oprah, she used to have serious weight challenges. Now, she gets more and more beautiful every day. She's a living testament to getting taste buds under control.

Sometimes the abundance we have in the United States overwhelms us. We walk into the grocery store, and we are bombarded with food of all types. All the sweet things are put in the middle isles so that we have to either stop in front of them, smell them, or walk around them. Again, those C.E.O.'s gotta make that profit. They don't care if you get sick and die. Why are health food stores called health food stores? We've always found that interesting. Shouldn't all grocery stores be about health? Wouldn't our number one priority for starting a grocery store be to provide quality foods that keep people healthy? Why are the healthy items in a grocery store way off in the corner somewhere? Why is it a privilege to consume foods and drinks that are not healthy? Is it because they taste good? There are some children in the world who barely get small rations of food every day. They are probably more healthy than the average American, who goes grocery shopping every week only to stuff big slabs of steak., liquor, cakes, junk food, and candy down their throats. Sometimes our Creator blesses us by depriving us. Think about that.

When you are eating something healthy, take the time to taste what you are eating. Cucumbers, avocados, spinach, broccoli, and super green drinks all have subtle tastes that are pleasing. So many of us are use to putting sweet and salty garbage into our body, that we no longer can appreciate the enjoyment of natural healing foods. Don't eat because of taste alone. Your sense of taste will get dulled down if you do, and you'll lust for more until you consume yourself to death. It's important to eat with the overstanding that you are nourishing, energizing, and fueling your body. Of course, green vegetables don't taste as good as ice cream, cheese pizza, and soft drinks. How would the C.E.O.'s of these companies make any money if they didn't manipulate your taste buds. Sweetness is our weakness.

"People are under the wrong assumption about what wealth is. Because wealth is not anything on this earth, wealth is in the mind."

-Pharell Williams of The Neptunes

Third Eye/6th Sense – Enhance Your Intuition

How many eyes do you have? You might think you only have two eyes. We think you have three eyes. What do you think? In the mirror you only see two, but you're not taking into account your third-eye; your sixth sense. Many people probably have third-eye experiences, but most probably never pay attention to them. Some equate the third eye with the pineal gland. Often belief systems, rules, and Self-doubt can get in the way from such an experience.

Mirror watching is one way to explore a third-eye experience. By yourself, looking into a mirror with dimmed light, you can fix a gaze toward the mirror while relaxing. Make sure you are in a peaceful state. If you can gaze into the mirror for about 5-10 minutes without laughing, you may feel a warmth in your back and neck or in your face. Your energy increases as you focus your mental energy. After some time, the image of your face in the mirror may change as your perception changes. The main goal is to be aware of your body as a physical shell and your Spirit as the energy filling your body. Third-Eye activation is a way to connect your energy to the inner energy of your body. Acute awareness, openness, and relaxation are essential. Your mental processes are both conscious and subconscious. By activating the third-eye on a regular basis, you can tap into a deeper level of consciousness giving you a more intuitive experience of your Higher Self. This is a way to become more familiar with your sixth sense. Your sixth sense will surely guide you to the divinity within you. Follow it!

"What I'm saying is 'Go ahead and get your money,
get your juice but don't get caught up.' "

-***KRS***-ONE

Cipher - Merge All of Your Senses

Learn to merge all of your senses. Overlap cooking with music. Give the place where you write your rhymes or poetry special lighting. Make sure your work place has a lot of comfortable furniture and mind stimulating art or posters. Do whatever you can do to keep beautiful things around you representing your Kulture and interests. Part of your Purpose on earth is to represent to the fullest. Anytime you merge your senses in the unification of your human cipher, you are bringing some special energy into the world. Your creations and activity take on a whole new meaning when you are able to tap into all of your senses at once. Have a party with your senses.

If we attempt to do any type of work in a dull environment, we are going to get dull results. Heighten the senses in the environment where you do your work and your results will probably be even more outstanding. Most of all, have fun with your life. If you are doing activities on a day to day basis that are not awakening your senses, maybe it's time to move on. You only have one life to live. Do the things in life that are going to bring you the most enjoyment and fulfillment. When you are excited about your daily activities, you are going to put passion and energy into them, bringing you to a higher level of output that will make other people say….."wow!"

Principle 4

Change - Go With the Flow

"If you realize that all things change, there is nothing you will try to hold on to. If you aren't afraid of dying, there is nothing you can't achieve."

-Tao Te Ching

A Hiphop Driven Life is a life of transformation. Transformation is revolution. Revolution is nothing more than change. We sometimes use natural metaphors to explain our transformation. We like to use the ocean as a metaphor. Our metaphor for the depth and knowledge of ourselves is the ocean in its vast presence. The ocean covers about eighty-percent of the earth's surface. Our whole sphere of existence as human beings is on top of a floating ball of water in space! Isn't that deep!? When we think of a photograph of the Earth from space, we think about our mind. It comes so natural to us now; we refer to it like it's the alphabet of our Self-knowledge. When we began discussing possibilities for getting deeper into our Divine Purpose and genius, we had to have a symbol that describes how we perceive our progress. The ocean became that symbol for us.

Imagine you are on the shore of the ocean for a moment. It is dawn and you look out into the open sea of waves. The horizon seems almost endless. As the sun comes up, you can see the water glisten and gleam. Pretend it's calm and there's a cool breeze blowing toward you. You can hear seagulls swirling around in the sky. Way off in the distance you may see a ship or two. Think of your shoes being off and you're walking feeling the warm sand underneath your feet. As you look down at the shoreline, you can see small waves splashing back and forth against sea shells. Imagine stepping one foot into the water and walking in the water up to your knees.

We equate that type of exploration of the sea with a brand new fresh exploration of life. We hope this book is those first small waves crashing against the shore of your ankles. It only takes one or two books for a man or woman to awaken to his or her Destiny. We want you to realize that The Hiphop Driven Life is what you make it. You can choose to stay on the shore, or you can learn to swim, learn to build boats, and learn to navigate the deep sea of consciousness. The choice is yours. When you have awakened to your Divine Purpose and begun to see parts of your genius, then you have stepped a foot into the ocean. It's now time to wade deeper, deeper …and deeper.

Only you know how far out you can go. Your life becomes a deep sea exploration adventure. Rest assured, there are sharks, pirates, whales, and even dolphins. At some places, the depth is unknown. There are species not yet discovered. There are other submarines with missiles in deadly waters. There are islands. There are other lands far away. This is all in your mind. The more curious you are, the more you will understand our ocean metaphor. You may wish to come to a level where you are totally certain about your life and Purpose, but this level will never come. The more you challenge your Self, the more uncertain life becomes. Your best strategy for dealing with increasing uncertainty in the world is to make sure you have the skills, tools, and resources to handle issues in your life as they come up.

In other words, if you are going to go out and explore the ocean, learn deep sea diving, go in a submarine, build a ship, or bring a crew along. Regardless of how much we try to cling on to things in life, nothing is ever guaranteed. Nothing lasts forever and we can be certain about very few things. Our level of genius and Purpose will be related to our ability to confront the unknown. This is where you must have faith and courage. To be truly liberated, one must sometimes not know the answers, but have enough resolve within his or her Self to come up with answers when the they are needed. That's how you change and go with the flow.

"You're mad when you're young because you don't understand what the hell is going on, how things work, and what's expected of you. But once you understand that, you channel your energy to other places instead of just being pissed off, because you understand that gets you nowhere."

*-Ice C*ube

Down by Law - Observe Yin and Yang in All things

As your Divine Purpose begins to emerge on your quest toward fulfilling your own vision, Purpose and goals; remember that the deeper you go, the less you know. Have no fear friend, you are down by law! Your creator lends justice to your curiosity. By making use of your life, you are tapping into Universal law. The Universe has your back. The Universe holds court in the streets. You will have victory over the streets because yin and yang is in all things. No matter how much darkness you see, realize that there is a brighter light coming to shine brilliantly. What more can you ask for than to be down by law? To have a Universal V.I.P. pass? We would rather have a Universal V.I.P. than a club V.I.P. that's flimsy and finite.

Make sure that you take the time to see the yin and yang in all things. In other words, identify the positive and negative aspects of all things. Remain balanced and focused. A Hiphop sage might tell you, "Let nothing move you, be it good or bad." There is only one Way. Whatever you decided to do, do it the best that you can do and realize that all the processes and aspects of that creation are driven by the fact that there is no such thing as good or bad….there just is. Knowing this makes you down by law, because you have the power to form and shape your reality, your environment, and your own pool of thinking.

Male and female essence are the aspects of Yin and Yang that are most popular. We can easily identify with the tough aspect of being male and the gentle side of being female. There are also many other aspects of Yin and Yang that help us make sense of a world full of contradictions. Ponder for a moment, think of some of the differences between man and woman. There are physical differences, emotional differences, different approaches to intellect, as well as different approaches to Spirituality.

For example, did you know that men and *wo*myn don't really approach Self-mastery in the same way. For one, we have referred to Self-mastery and Self-knowledge a lot in this book. Hopefully, we have not lost the interest in female readers as well. We are writing from an intensely male driven perspective, so we can't help but have our own biases. We realize that the word mastery may be a little dominant, referring to controlling or ruling. Such a word is loaded for *womyn*. Whereas for men, the word ignites us to a higher level of skill development. *Womyn* may identify better with being competent, nurturing, or straight up Goddesses. The main point is that there are always differences between men and women.

Differences are always present in life as well. There is hot and cold, light and dark, day and night, hard and soft, tall and short, skinny and fat, beautiful and ugly, or young and old. We should learn to see the inherent value in all creations. We cannot pursue one side of life endlessly and forget about another. We must identify what the yang is and what the yin is, see how these differences might affect us, and adjust ourselves accordingly.

"Always remember: if you have a dream, don't think somebody else is obligated to help you out on being successful, 'cause you make that happen. If you see somebody waiting on something, it's because they're undecided on what they're about to do."

*-Ne*lly

Blowin' in the Wind - Learn to love Ambiguity

All we really are is dust in the wind. We are tiny drops in an ocean of motion. Sometimes we gas ourselves up too much thinking we can control our lives completely. There is only so much that we can control. We can control ourselves, our thinking, our emotions, and behaviors. After that, there is not a lot we can absolutely control. We can do a lot of influencing, moving, shifting, and provoking. Since we are all just blowing in the wind, we must continue to accept the inherent ambiguity in all things. Some things just don't make sense. Sometimes there is no absolute right or wrong in a situation. If we make ourselves too rigid in

the world, we will destroy ourselves before our time. Our Purpose is not to Self-destruct!

Have you ever sat in a park full of trees and looked at a group of people from a distance. While you are sitting still by yourself, it's almost like people far away are ants. Compare them to the trees that are standing upright motionless full of leaves. The trees are rooted deeply in the earth. The people are not rooted, they are susceptible to movement. The irony is that the people are moving while the earth is moving. The Earth is moving slowly, but it is still moving. Since the tree is rooted, it is moving with the Earth. As people, we must root ourselves and sit still or stand still to observe our life. We will then move in unison with the Earth, bringing our minds to a centered equilibrium out of confusion.

This is one of the reasons why meditation is so highly applauded in many practices of re-connecting with God. Imagine the Earth in the form of the typical old dusty globe used in a nauseatingly boring geography class. If we are dust in the wind, it's like the globe is spinning and dust particles are swirling about on its surface. That is us humans, driving around in our cars, flying in our planes, and walking down the sidewalk. When we meditate, it's almost like we are fastening ourselves to the Earth with seatbelts for a change. Instead of dust blowing in the wind, we become a particle stuck to the globe. Now we are in alignment with the globe. We are spinning in the same direction as the globe instead of opposite the globe. When you are in alignment with the earth, it is easier for you to deal with the ambiguity you face, especially in corrupt and greedy nations. Live life to the fullest and keep yourself firmly rooted in the Undaground.

"I always thought "game" was just a replacement word for knowledge when you're in the streets. I analyzed it in and out, through and front. To say you have game means that you know; been there, experienced it. People can point things out to you, show you little different angles to make money and all that kind of stuff. But nobody can really give you the game. You gotta go out there and acquire it for yourself."

-Too $hort

Come to Grips - Accept Paradox

In America, it's difficult to balance the competitive and creative aspects of a free enterprise economy. On one hand, as healthy prosperous, Purposeful Hiphoppas, we'd like to live a life of abundance, creativity, and prosperity. On the other hand, we must deal with all the other competitive maniacs running around in our society. Life can be a real headache sometimes. It's o.k., we've got some answers. First of all, you must accept the fact that there are two sides to every coin. For every poison there's an anecdote. For every pain, there is a pleasure. For every setback, there is a deeper meaning to be found. For every rejection there is an opportunity in the back door. Come to grips with the fact that you will encounter a variety of challenges on your path. These challenges may test your current level of commitment. Tap into the greater appreciation that there is tremendous beauty in paradox.

Let's take the example of creativity vs. competition. A base level need for us in our American society (matrix) is money. We must always further our overstanding of street entrepreneurialism. How do we get money in America? We either inherit it, become an hourly wage earner, train in school to become an employee, join the military, start a business, or rob and kill for it. (Pimping and drug dealing is under the business start up category). The type of employee we could become could be everything from working at Target to being a rapper with a deal at a record label. The drug business is just as diverse as regular business; there are many intricate facets to that as well with different entry level positions. Starting a business could be real estate or it could be a clothing line. Robbing and killing are the lowest of our attempts to get money. If someone is robbing or killing, they have decided internally that for some reason there is no other way to get money. This competitive attitude toward wealth is born out of a fear and doubt of an individual's inherent Divine Purpose. Those of us who view this country from a Hiphop perspective, with Hiphop's sight, fully overstand that our Creator has given us abundance in all things; from soda cans to old record players. We are grateful for our brains, our eyes, our voices, our fingers, our clothes, and our dwellings. Even if these simple joys in life are not sufficient to satisfy mainstream people, they are sufficient to satisfy us. We create wealth and possibility with what we have. We are alchemists. We know exactly how to turn nothing into something.

The paradox of our society is that we can create whatever we want, and make our choice of how we get money, yet the competitive aspect always comes into play in the free enterprise marketplace. People are blinded by the mainstream control of their thinking and the flashy material emptiness that is flaunted in front of their perceived poverty. Even if we wanted to, we cannot force everyone to believe that their Creator has given them Divine Purpose and they too can create something out of nothing. The only way to deal with such a realization is come to grips with our paradox.

One very pragmatic way to deal with being a money hungry capitalist, is to have a mindfulness about money. Don't just start a business. Start a business with Divine Purpose. Start a business that will help advance civilization and the quality of life of other people. By starting such a business, you maintain the competitive edge while remaining totally loyal to your abundant and prosperous nature. You don't have to stress over your business when you know you are easing human suffering through your products or services. When you are selling records or movies that help people see greater Truths and live a higher quality of life,

you want your sales to increase. We must eat in America, so we all gotta have a hustle. The paradox is to embrace compassionate hustlin'.

America has always been run by illegal business. You've seen all the movies, read all the books, and heard all the documentaries about organized crime and government scandal. If you are in illegitimate thug enterprises, there is always redemption. All types of emcees have made songs about black drug dealers organizing and starting up businesses that help the poor like in the movie King of New York. We all have our unique and varied Robin Hood theories. Wouldn't it be nice to use America's own medicine against itself? So called Authorities are not fighting the war on drugs anyway. The reason we say this is because, the real war on drugs lies in the hearts and minds of Americans who can't cope with some of the more miserable aspects of our society. Can we as a people sit in a room and deal with our emotions internally without drugs or alchohol? The demand for drugs is so high in America that there's a thriving marketplace for narcotics! In addition to this, there are legal drugs in every pharmacy that are just as mind altering and brain damaging.

All the money in America is so dirty it's not even funny. We've read how most of the money that circulates in American currency has at least some residue of cocaine on it. America's cash (blood cells) are filthy! What would we expect from a country who's very backbone was built off of the slave industry. Now, those of us who value true life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness have to re-evaluate the whole society that we live in and create a new one. Grab a hold fellow geniuses, the Hiphop renaissance has begun! We are creating the new America in our image: Urban wear, baggy jeans, doo rags, live parties, concerts, spoken word poetry, …and yes….. rims and ice.

If we are going to re-evaluate and re-invent the entire way of life in America, we're going to also have to re-evaluate our own thinking as pioneers and leaders. We must balance the creative with the competitive, while we come to grips with all of the paradox we see in our country. We live in a Kingdom. We don't want to, but we do. We in Rome ya'll. When in Rome should we do what the Romans do? Among all this capitalist competitive sex, violence, and drug hoopla, don't forget that you have Divine Purpose as well as a creative Spirit. Be grateful for what you have and God will bring you what you need. Nuff said.

"But the whole thing is walking with your head up, never walking with your head down. Going out there, doing a lot of footwork, and not thinking that you're gon' blossom overnight. You gon' have some ups and downs, but you gotta crawl before you walk."

-*E*-40

Straight Up - Learn to Embrace Uncertainty

Our Hiphop generation is an ever expanding spherical cipher. Sometimes we don't even know where we are going? Or do we? Do we have to be 100% sure about our future. We obviously can't be, no matter how hard we try. If you are Hiphop, ask yourself where you are going. It's time for you to get comfortable with uncertainty. Make an effort to embrace uncertainty. We are the bold and fearless generation who know how to be enlightened, wholehearted, and open-minded as we face the unknown 21st Century. We ARE Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream! Isn't that deep? Most people fear what they don't understand or cannot fully comprehend what we're all about. The Hiphop Driven Life is always on the brink of evolving itself. If Hiphop is within you, you are on an uncertain path. Put faith into your journey. Enjoy the process more. Don't lust after the results.

As a genius with Divine Purpose, you are on the front lines against elitist America's war on Self-mastery. Yeah, you thought we only had a war against terrorism. The United States also has a war on Self-mastery. We don't know why. Well, maybe we have a few clues! It really all comes down to the idea of a competitive need for profits. The average American is a chronic consumer. The average American corporation is a chronic mind controller. You should be learning how to master some specific skills that will make you a valuable and worthwhile individual in our economy. The corporations should be learning and discovering ways to make our country civilized, more peaceful, tolerant, and humane. Capitalism isn't all bad. The challenges occur when there are a few people with an extreme amount of power that want to capitalize a lil' bit more than everyone else.

When these greedy people get together, they devise plans to accumulate more profits in a shorter time period. This means they have to strategize about ways to get more people to purchase their product or service in a shorter amount of time. They don't realize that their lack of fulfillment won't change unless they change the nature of their own Spirit. In a race to the top, waging wars of dollars, they try to martial their corporate armies against one another. This is where the war begins. Ruthlessly, they compete for guess what…..your mind and your attention.

For example, if you want to be a martial artist and perfect your skill as a superior warrior with fearlessness, poise, and grace; it would take a serious amount of concentration and effort. You would stay away from certain foods, you would be moderate in your activities, you would save your money, and you would still your mind while observing nature. You would be of no use to the greedy corporate leech. So what the corporate leech has to do is try and trick you and lure you into their offering.

Hence, they enter the world of marketing. If you are on your way to martial arts training, they grab your eyesight with a billboard on the interstate as you drive by. If you turn on the radio, they flash a quick sound byte in your ear. If you watch T.V.

they slip a quick commercial in front of your eyes. If you were not dedicated to your Self-mastery, you would eventually get warn down and fall susceptible to the message. If you pay attention to the message, it plays on your subconscious mind and may appeal to some aspect of your senses. It may affect you so much that you have to skip your training one day to spend time shopping, or you break your diet to eat junk food, or instead of spending your money on the new exercise equipment, you spend it on a new Big screen T.V.

Now you've lost time for your skill or craft, weakened your physical body, missed training, and lost an opportunity to invest in your own Self-mastery. It is the Self-discipline that discourages people from mastering a craft once they choose their Divine Purpose. Many people know what they like to do. But they don't actually do what they like to do. The corporations win the battles, inducing people to abandon their dreams, visions, Purposes, and goals to give into immediate pleasures, cravings, wants, and needs. This is America's war on Self-mastery. If we are not careful, we will continually lose the battles, lose the war, and live a life where we never really experienced the best part of our dreams or visions. Our example is not meant to influence you to be a Ninja! We know that life is about fun as well, and sometimes it's only human to simply BE fun. We want to make sure that you are at least aware of the war against your personal Self-mastery.

Self-Mastery is the process we would enjoy most in life, if we weren't constantly bombarded in a society that preys on our weaknesses. If we are living on Divine Purpose and we truly love what we do, we will enjoy the practice, the training, the learning, the observations, and the Self-analysis. This is what a master does whether it comes to basketball, rap, acting, filmmaking, deejayin ' etc. A master lives a life on Purpose by following his or her bliss. Learn to use Self-mastery to free yourselves from the uncertainty or pains in our society. You may not be able to change the ill parts of our society, but at least you can focus on the simple activities in Self-mastery that make your life happy and fulfilled.

"I'm happy that I did what I did. So other Latino kids could at least see that I did it and not feel like they can't do it. I'm not so much a role model but more like someone you could relate to. I defied the odds."

- ***Big*** Pun, (R.I.P.)

Face The Noise - Move Toward the Unknown

Learn to have a beginner's mind. A beginner's mind is starting or approaching situations with a blank slate. It's much easier to move toward the unknown with such an attitude. If we move into the unknown with all our previous hang-ups and insecurities, we'll be so fearful that it will be hard to adjust and grow as we move along. With a beginner's mind, we see each new event, new task, or new experience as a chance for experimentation and exploration. Don't fear the unknown. Explore the unknown. We always need variety in our lives as human beings. We also need security. Do not let your addiction to security prevent you from moving toward the unknown.

Believe it or not, the unknown is where our dreams lie. Sometimes we are so conditioned to the status quo in our society, that we give up hope on that dream we had at the younger ages. Sometimes it's not always about being realistic. Sometimes we have to be unrealistic damnit!! Get off ya ass, and get unrealistic! Gandhi was not realistic, Martin Luther King Jr. was not realistic, Malcolm X was not realistic. Tupac was not realistic. Mother Theresa was not realistic. These people learned to face the noise. These people learned to move into the unknown with a vision and a dream of how they saw the world. It's actually more realistic to pursue things that are unrealistic. Get it? Are you straight up confused now? Don't be. It's simple. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Be unrealistic in the standards you set for yourself and your loved ones. Don't approach the new unknown territory with apprehension and doubt. Approach the unknown with curiosity and a sense of adventure. Of course make sure that when you are unrealistic, it is an empowering unrealistic!

Sometimes a good example for this is when kids think there are monsters in their room. They will scream and cry afraid of the dark because it's mysterious and unknown. However, when you turn the lights on, children are forced to see that there is no monster and their triflin' asses need to stop watching B.E.T. and M.T.V.! Sometimes the images we feed our brain are very powerful and potent. When kids know there are no monsters there is no longer an un – known. It is all known. This is why knowledge reigns supreme. Once we know, we are empowered. Go into your unknown future with confidence and courage. What 's the worst that can happen. Is the boogie man gonna get you?!

"I know if my business is not straight, then my life is not straight. And that consists of making sure you pay the taxes, making sure you have a place to rest your head, and making sure you're taking care of the people around you, in your inner circle. Business is the first part, because…if you got too many bills, if you stressed out, then you can't create."

-***Parrish*** Smith of EPMD

Get It How You Live it - Learn to Hustle AND relax

Discipline, hard work, and effort say so much about our character as human beings. The more energy we put into the Universe, the more energy we are going to get back. The way we hustle comes to getting things done in the best way possible. We should strive to learn from our mistakes all the while pushing ourselves to the next boundary of our potential. Not only does our habit of hustlin' tell us something about our character. Also, the way that we play and relax also tells us some vital information about our character. Sometimes we gotta take it light and sometimes we gotta take it to the bridge.

Many people don't understand the subtle necessity of balancing work with relaxation. We're no different than Olympic athletes. We've all been guilty of pushing ourselves too hard at one time or another. Even as we write these pages, we are testing our endurance frying our eyes on a computer screen. Such is life. The balance between work and relaxation is a process of holistic engagement. Our bodies have cycles. We must listen to our hearts and minds. We know when we are pushing ourselves to a stress capacity. We also know when we are being flat out lazy. Be very observant of your own habits. Make an effort to change your habits if you do not like your levels of productivity.

One of the greatest joys of The Hiphop Driven Life is the love of chillin' and loungin'. What you doin' man…."Chillin." It's part of our flava our steelo to be cool calm and collective. Sometimes it's in our moments of deep thought and relaxation that our best ideas come to us. Sometimes when we are not working on a problem or challenge, the solution automatically comes to us. Have you ever gotten good ideas in the shower? Of course you have. Think about the movie Belly, when Tommy a.ka. "Bunz" hears the Kurt Loder report about the new "mysterious form of heroin," the idea pops in his mind in the shower while he's thinking about his next move. Hopefully, you don't have to think about scoring big with drugs on a regular basis. Either way, the relaxing moments present us with the most space to breathe and let our minds wander.

No matter where you are, spend time looking up at the sky and the clouds. At night look up at the stars and the moon. Just chill sometimes. Cut off the cell phone. Turn off the two-way. Shut down the computer. Disconnect the phone. Light some candles and just chill. Take it easy. Give your body and your mind a chance to catch up from all the craziness of the world. It will reward you in feelings of peace and relaxation. When you are ready to hustle again, your work will be so much more sharp and decisive. We must not run our bodies into the dirt. Our bodies can take a lot of punishment. We already expose them to so much toxicity in the polluted air we breathe and unhealthy food we eat. Give your body that extra feeling of completeness.

On the other hand, when it is time to get quality results in your life, work with a laser-like intensity. Let nothing get in your way when you are working on a project. In life, our Divine Purpose and dreams don't just bump into us when we're flipping through T.V. channels. We have to dig deep, put our hands in the dirt, and soul search to find out what we're on this earth for and act now to make it happen.

If you always give one thousand percent effort, you cannot go wrong. If you give a thousand percent and you fail, you don 't ever have to worry about going down that road again. If you give a thousand percent and you succeed, you'll know that you succeeded for a reason, your intensity of effort. Sometimes people beat themselves up and don't realize that they have a legitimate issue to address with an institution or person. However, if they have doubts about the effort they put in, their argument is weakened because they're not sure what would have happened if they put in the full effort. When you put in the full effort toward an objective and other people don't do their part, let 'em have it! That's the only way that we can raise our standards as individuals and communities. We all have to expect more from ourselves and others. Our intensity level is the only way to measure whether we are slacking our not. If we are intense when we do work, we won't have to worry about letting others down. Ain't no half-steppin'.

"I don't want to be like anybody. I just want to be like myself."

-Bow Wow

Creatalytical - Be Creative and Analytical

You didn't think you could pick up a book with the word Hiphop in the title and not have some new slang after reading it, did you? Creatalytical is our word for being creative and analytical at the same time. We've found this balance to give us the means to solve almost any problem that we are confronted with. The analytical side gives us the facts that we need. The creative side gives us the resourcefulness we need. Once we start gettin' creatalytical with it, there ain't no stopping us. When was the last time you thought about a problem with a whole brain approach. Did you write out the facts? Did you doodle a mind map? Did you draw a decision tree? Did you call someone? There is never one way to get over obstacles. If you can't go over it, you can go under it. If

you can't go under it, you can go around it. You may have heard the phrase, "There's more than one way to skin a cat." The more creatalytical you are the easier and quicker it will be for you to solve your pressing dilemmas.

Most people in society are overly analytical. We can't count the number of times we talk to people and say some general or basic statement only to hear the word "Actually" Sometimes people in our society have been so indoctrinated by rules, regulations, and restrictions that they cannot carry on a simple conversation without trying to analyze the validity of the message being spoken.

For example, If we say, "Yo, I like that car over there, it has a nice blue color." And the robotic person says, "Actually, it's light blue." Such a comment is what we call a "computer comment." In such situations, we feel like we're talking to a computerized robot that is analyzing every word we say searching for error. This actually syndrome in speech is prevalent in females and males of a highly formal educated background. Keep your ears open for actually people! It must be a result of school training. We can't stand it. It's troublesome to see so many people in our society pinned down in the mechanics of communication, but not have a vague idea about the ESSENCE. For the above statement, why correct someone on such a simple statement? Why search for that level of correctness about a statement.

Our theory is that people's minds have been warped so much by trying to get answers correct on tests, that they are trained to sort out and pick the correct answers anytime someone says something. Such thinking is not free. These people are afraid to be incorrect or be in the presence of ambiguity. Ambiguity frightens robotic people. We don't care about being correct or incorrect when it comes to life. We just talk, flub up, but we aim to be effective. We get our point across creatalytically. *YouknowwhatImsayin?*

"Contrary to popular belief, common sense does not exist.
You either have sense or non-sense. Sense is not common."

*-Ch*uck D

Come Correct - Use Your Sense of Intuition

Change is something we can always expect. Progress is something that takes a little more attention and foresight. Sometimes it is good to make decisions based on an in depth factual analysis. Sometimes it is better to make decisions based on an intuitive notion. Often, the intuition serves us slightly better if we have a deep Spiritual relationship with our creator. If we realize our Spirit is animating our body, then we know that intuition is a Spiritual yearning, which may contradict logic in the physical world.

Come correct when you make a decision. Even if you are not sure of the outcome, decide your decision making process. Are you going to use an analytical factual calculated approach? Are you going to use a more Spirit driven intuitive approach? Do not be limited to one or the other. To make progress, you have to be equally skilled at making decisions both ways. Some people limit themselves to only the Spiritual approach and wonder why the issue has not been handled or it keeps popping up. Sometimes we can do our analysis and calculation, then when we have reached a few options, we can leave up the rest to intuition. Sometimes we can abandon the calculations all together and go with intuition.

There ain't no half steppin' in a Hiphop Driven Life. Hiphop is your intuitive North Star. Your own divinity will free you from the trenches of competitive society. You may have spent many days and nights prior to this, confused, lonely, and depressed. Keep your eyes looking up toward the light of reason. There is a reason for your struggle. Use it to your advantage. Use your struggle to serve others. Use your struggle to enlighten others and touch lives. When you are taking such actions you won't be half steppin'. You will be moving with congruence. All the greatest leaders throughout time have been able to live with such a charisma.

Leaders are able to lead without procrastination, fear and doubt, because they know exactly what their own life means to them. Leaders have taken the world on their shoulders through their own intense soul searching. You can do the same. We are ALL leaders. You don't have to necessarily be like Malcolm X, Martin, or Gandhi to be a leader. Sometimes leadership is simple like raising a family, being a mentor to a child, or giving assistance to others. The true meaning of leadership is stepping outside your comfort zone, the unknown; and finding new discoveries to bring back to the people you would like to help. As Nightjohn, we have pushed ourselves into the unknown realm so we could give you information and ideas that would lead you to your own Hiphop North Star. In essence, we are freedom fighters pointing our finger to the North Star, so that your journey is prosperous and liberating. We hope you continue the cycle. Each one must teach one…..hundred.

"There's a time to be angry and there's a time to be peaceful."

*-Com*mon

Don't Get it Twisted – Thug purity vs. Thug passion

It's a challenge to become a saint. How many of us are pure like sky? Can we hope to attain even moderate levels of purity within the type of society that we live in. Are we Holy? Is there Heaven for a Gangsta? Where is Thugz Mansion? We wonder if Heaven got a ghetto. How many of us can care for the sick the same way as Mother Theresa? It's sure as hell not easy. It's always tempting to do activities for our own Selfish gain. It can also be tempting to be over zealous in our righteousness, pushing others away instead of helping them. We like to call our pursuits by two different nicknames: thug purity and thug passion.

Thug purity is the mental state of a sky like mind. We mean clear crystal clear. Think of a sky with no clouds. Think of water in a glass. Think of a prism or a diamond. Like Common said, "Behind every thug, is a lost black man in disguise." Thug purity is the cleansing process of finding our inner Self. To obtain thug purity, the initiate goes through a mining process within the soul. In this process, the exterior thug searches for inner wealth. The thug finds a way to sift through inner conflict and turmoil (coal and dirt) to find inner diamonds.

These diamonds are the raw essence of Divine Purpose, gifts, talents, and skills. Such a pursuit is how a thug finds sanity and peace of mind, while stripping away addictions to the material world. It's not that we all have to be 100% pure. We are all constantly working toward health, love, awareness, and wealth. We have to condition ourselves to be pure. We have to change our habitual thoughts just like we would change the water in a fish tank. Otherwise, we will die inside. Thug purity is how we cleanse ourselves from the dirt of the past. Brush the dirt off ya shoulder.

Thug passion is not only the drink of Alize' mixed with Hennessey that Tupac made popular. Thug passion is standing up for oneself for a noble cause, in a chaotic world, with humanity and compassion. We cleanse ourselves with thug purity, and defend ourselves with thug passion. Don't get it twisted. Just because we are committed to peace and prosperity doesn't mean that we will not defend ourselves in times of danger. Thug passion is simple Self-preservation. It is natural to defend ourselves. It is unnatural to turn the other cheek. We pray for and expect nonviolence (thug purity) and we prepare for war (thug passion).

In a Hiphop Driven life, we only carry on the great traditions of the founding fathers of the United States of America or early American pioneers. Who, after all were nothing more than rebels, street entrepreneurs, and thugs. The signers of The Declaration of Independence and constitution embodied thug passion, while hoping to build a nation around the ideals of thug purity. The essence of thug passion is found in the phrase, "Give me liberty or give me death." Thug passion is a thirst for liberation. Your thirst for liberation will be quenched by the preparation of your mind, body, and Spirit for the unexpected. Thug passion is simply the warrior's way. Unfortunately, when living for noble causes, there is always opposition, hatred, scorn, and contempt. For example, if you walk around saying, "I Am Hiphop," people will try to check you for no reason. When keeping a clear mind, it is difficult to walk in the world, because people want to manipulate you for their own Selfish gain. If a disagreement occurs, such manipulations by evildoers may even turn aggressive and violent. It is in the event of such violence, that thug passion is ignited.

When Bruce Lee spoke of defending oneself with the deepest emotion in ones soul, he was speaking of thug passion, the love and respect for all that is good and beautiful. One cannot help but to be passionate in defending women, children, the elderly, the sick, the innocent, the weak., and the poor. All that is good and beautiful should be protected and preserved. Preserving life is an aim of thug passion. This has also been popularized by brother Nas in the song "Thief's Theme." It's all about Self-preservation. As the lost tribes, we must preserve our selves. The Universe consists of positive and negative forces. Negative forces are presented to us in the media with more intensity and Hollywood effects. Murder is always glorified, so we think that being peaceful and good-natured is soft. However, in real life, we oppose ignorance with fervor. We oppose violence with powerful, ethical, Self-defense. We oppose hatred with tough love. Sometimes violators of peace may have to get hurt, or even killed, but such is life. Even in our declaration of peace, we clearly emphasize in the thirteenth principle that "war is always reserved as a final solution when there is evidence that all other means of diplomatic negotiation have failed repeatedly." Such is a thug's passion. Such is the honorable path of the warrior.

Even the words of the Bible are so often misquoted that the poor and confused masses think being, meek, humble, and subservient to the wealthy is appropriate to do God's work. They do not realize that they are being pimped by their pastors. Their pastors are laughing all the way to the bank. **Your Creator wants you to be WEALTHY and** PROSPER. **Having a mind state of poverty is unacceptable.** Prosperity is one of the highest aims of your Divine Purpose. This is why it takes both thug purity and thug passion to live a Hiphop Driven Life. You must maintain the balances that are integral to change and progress. Part of this balance is walking the thin line between love and hate, peace and war, poverty and affluence, as well as evil and good.

The balance of "thug purity" with "thug passion" is also found in the Bible. If you have a Bible nearby, take a look at Matthew 10:16-20; in the New Living Translation; as Jesus sends out the 12 apostles it reads:

"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. Be as wary as snakes and harmless as doves. But beware! For you

will be handed over to the courts and beaten in the synagogues. And you must stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. This will be your opportunity to tell them about me-yes, to witness to the world. When you are arrested, don't worry about what to say in your defense, because you will be given the right words at the right time. For it won't be you doing the talking – it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

Many scholars have theories about what "Be wary as snakes and harmless as doves" truly means. Through our Sight, in a Hiphop Driven Life toward peace and prosperity, we think this phrase means that the right to access Spiritual understanding has been seized by so called authorities who do not themselves understand Spirit. They have forbidden the common man, not a member of this privileged elitist group, to seek knowledge of Spiritual reality. It means that you should keep a low profile in your Spiritual seeking; mild like a dove to put no one into opposition to you and like a snake in your inconspicuousness. Thus you will be safe to seek knowledge. When you have the keys to knowledge, success, and wealth, enter and proclaim the way. Power to the people!

"WE have a voice for a reason, and I feel like WE should use it. WE don't all have to be Suzy Sunshine, but if you're gonna speak, then teach."

***- EV*E**

Day By Day Ruler - List Your Vices and Your Virtues

Your relationship with your Creator will determine much about your sense of fulfillment and Divine Purpose. Your Creator is your day-by-day ruler. You must be able to balance the weight of your heart with the weight of a feather. We all have been afflicted with common vices. We have all seen the benefits of common virtues. Take note of both your vices and virtues so you can take an honest look at yourself. We all have strengths and weaknesses. It is our responsibility to fully understand how our strengths and weaknesses affect our daily life.

Common vices include but are not limited to: lust, hate, greed, gluttony, avarice, envy, and sloth. Sometimes we have to take an honest look at our selves in the mirror and think about these vices. Are we addicted to anything? Do we hate on others? If so, why? Are we addicted to food, money, or sex? Only we as individuals can tell ourselves the honest Truth about the vice that may have a stranglehold over our thinking. Do not bother if people point fingers at you, or accuse you of having these vices. Everyone has their moment of Truth, everyone.

Common virtues include but are not limited to: Honor, courage, honesty, loyalty, kindness, and respect. We also need to reward ourselves for practicing these virtues. For example, if you are afraid of public speaking and you gather the courage to overcome your fear and take action despite of that fear, you should think about it, write about it and talk about it. Give yourself the opportunity to one day look back and see that you have been courageous before. Thus, you can repeat the process over and over again. Let ya day-by-day ruler handle the rest.

"I'm not perfect. I'm human. I've made a lot of mistakes and there's a lot of things I don't know, but I'm not afraid to learn, and not afraid to say that I don't know something."

-Foxy Brown

Principle 5

Whole-Brain Thought:
Mental Balance

"The most enduring contributions made to civilization have not been made by brawn, they have been made by brain."

-- Benjamin L. Hooks

As you may know already, our brains contain two different hemispheres. We have the right (creative) hemisphere and we have the left (analytical) hemisphere. Most people have a dominance of one or the other, causing differences in the way each individual thinks. We also have an abundance of left-brain analytical thinking in our society as a result of the predominantly white male governed institutions that saturate America's corporate, government, and educational landscape. This domination has resulted in a number of imbalances among the population of the free world. If you think about it deeply, "all men (white) were originally created equal." There was no reference to women and Africans in that document. Come to think of it, we've only had white male presidents thus far in the history of our glorious nation. This is bound to have an awkward affect on a democracy with so much diversity, culture, and feminism. Each individual within our society is responsible for compensating his or her brain imbalance according to personal need. Our educational system in America tends to neglect more esoteric forms of intellect and needs of right brain thinking students.

Our modern technological society even has gone as far as discriminating against creative right brain thinkers by labeling them "learning disabled." Les Brown, one of the greatest professional speakers in the world, was labeled learning disabled when he was in school; until a heroic teacher taught him he had the "right" to be a genius. Les Brown went on to influence the world with his powerful communication skills. To this day, and as you read this, many educators, professors, and teachers are committing crimes against humanity by labeling right brain dominated thinkers as learning disabled. What if your Divine Purpose is more creative than analytical? Are you supposed to roll over and die as a failure? It ain't right! Fellow geniuses, this is why we always have had an uphill battle as visionaries, leaders, and whole-brain thinkers in America. We have been going against the grain of left-brain analytical socialization. Follow Nightjohn, we'll direct you to the North Star to your freedom and liberation.

In "The Science of Rap," found in KRS-ONE's book Ruminations, the Teacha explains this phenomenon eloquently. He writes that most rap is generated in female dominated environments in the inner city. Because many children grow up in these single parent households, they have to obey and respect their mothers only, and creative thinking becomes more dominant. According to the Teacha, it is this feminist dominated reality that would give the youth the creative rebellious foresight to always verbally challenge and poetically shatter constructs in a predominately left-brain, male dominated society. KRS' is absolutely right. There it is.

We must awaken the power of our imagination. We must overstand the phenomenon of whole-brain thinking. Now is the time that we make use of both sides of our brain. Now is the time that we learn how to have mental balance. Now is the time for us as the Hiphop generation to become "Creatalytical." Let's creatively analyze how to overcome the racist and elitist past of our nation's leadership. When will the face and clothing of the United States President reflect the faces and clothing of the people that make up the diversity in this nation? If the President were to be one of ethnicity, would that individual have to submit his or her soul and will to the left-brain dominated thought process to get there?

Will our first African, Latino, Asian, Native American or female President be a token to fool the people into thinking minorities have made it somewhere? When will sistas like Condoleeza Rice take their make up off, their perm (temporary) out, and reflect their natural beauty as African women? Why does their hair have to be straight like white women? There's nothing wrong with the straight hair of white women. White women are born with straight hair. Africans are born with kinky hair. Kinky, curly, or nappy hair is just as beautiful as straight hair isn't it? What's wrong with having physical characteristics that require no chemical processing? When will our President have dreadlocks? People are lost when they alter their natural body to try and make it to the top in a left-brain analytically dominated society. What's the Purpose of participating in a system that destroys the very nature of your soul as a human being?

Is it mandatory for women in politics and business to change their appearance to succeed in white male dominated governmental system of leadership? Why do so many people try so badly to fit in against their inherent nature? Why should we have to use any chemicals to be beautiful when we are naturally beautiful? Is it wrong or downright illegal to have a soul in America? As time progresses, your Divine Purpose in the Hiphop generation will be to answer some of these questions by using the power of your own unique whole brain thinking. It is your ability to realize your innate genius that will make the answers to

these questions clear, lending way to the appropriate actions and results. The fate of America and the International Hiphop Community will depend on your Hiphop Driven Lifestyle.

"One of the secrets to longevity is that whatever you want to be long in, don't let it be the thing that's feeding you."

- *K*RS-ONE

Alchemy - Balance Art and Science

Upon reading this book, you are learning to become an Alchemist. Alchemy is a seemingly magical power or process of transmuting. Go straight to your inner nature to create the divinity and genius in your life. Everything you need to be outstanding, intelligent, and creative is inside of you. Your biggest challenge will be to erase the barriers in your thinking so you can unleash your potential. The biggest challenge for you will be to balance pursuits that may seem conflicting or opposing to you.

For example, as an artist of any type, it may be necessary for you to understand the depth of scientific and analytical thinking so you can create art that is so precise, accurate and breathtaking. The study of science lends to more beautiful art. It was revealed that one of the greatest inventors and geniuses ever was Leonardo Da Vinci. He believed that the scientific basis gave one the proper overstanding of how to produce art that was more captivating and natural. Science and analytical thought isn't bad. It should be held in check and not overrun our thought process.

It is really common sense. If art is the replication of all things natural, and science is the study of all things natural; then art is the study of science and science is the study of art. Art is passion practiced with discipline. Science is discipline practiced with passion. Overlap your knowledge of science and art and you'll probably begin to see some powerful ideas come to you when you think. After all, it's only natural that you would do so.

Using rap music and emceein' as an example; it is easier to Rap when you know about things. What are you going to rap about if you don't have a wide span of knowledge? That's why rappers in the mainstream get caught up looking lame. They lose their originality and can't think of anything else to rap about; so lyrics are all about the new car, the different drinks, the new women, the new dance, and the new clothes. That's why rap music is so watered down on M.T.V. and B.E.T. People don't overstand that art is science and science is art, even in rap music. On T.V. and Radio they are not producing A.R.T. (Always Realizing Truth), the are producing F.A.R.T.s (Fear of Always Realizing Truths). This is why so many fake and phony rappers heads are all gassed up. They are mentally polluted by their own foulness.

For me, Bayo, studying science first in my dead end college quest gave me some surprising advantages, though it was pure hell and misery at the time. I entered college and was persuaded by the dominant male role models in my family that to be successful, I would have to be either be a doctor, lawyer, businessman, or engineer. With this belief firmly planted in my mind, I began university life focused on the rigors of chemistry, biology, and calculus so that one day I'd be able to go to medical school. I thought I was going to be a Molecular Biology major. This was nowhere close to my Divine Purpose and true genius. I was far off course as a result of family pressure.

However, because God has a sense of humor, I studied day and night to understand the meticulous course work in these classes. In fact, at times, I spent a whole weekend in the library studying several chapters just to catch up with the assignments. I was always behind, because it took me so long to do each problem, especially in chemistry. Even though I had tutors, I did not realize it at the time; I was correcting a severe left brain analytical deficiency that I had. I was never strong in math or science. I had always been inundated with language and arts in my parents households. My first Chemistry test in college I studied for I got a 34% out of a 100%. The next tests were all D's and F's, even after spending more time studying. Luckily, there was one test that was more conceptual, having to do with drawing chemical structures. You only get about four or five exams in one semester in college. I got lucky and received an A on that one test so I barely passed the class with a D.

I had equally severe problems in Calculus. I went in to talk with Constantine Tsinakis, Professor of Mathematics at Vanderbilt. He was slightly militant with his homework requirements, but still kind and said I had a good mind and that he didn't understand why I "keep making careless mistakes." I would then stay in my room on weekends, refusing to party, study during the week, go in to tutors, confiscate old tests, and still I was getting D's and C's. My analytical deficiency had finally caught up with me and because college life is time constrained and pressure filled, I was forced to withdraw from Tsinakis' Calculus class, and some other classes and change majors several times.

After officially dropping out of Vanderbilt University, and even after re-awakening the Hiphop within, I still felt obligations and loyalty to family members. I was persuaded and influenced again to try pre-med courses at a school that my family felt "wasn't so elitist and racist." My cousin William was about to graduate from medical school at the University of Cincinnati. I was told by him once that I needed more determination in science. Never being one to back down from questions about my commitment, I conformed to the will of my family members. I became so determined I cut everything off to succeed in academic

science….everything. With the false perception that a state school like Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN, would be any different, I made the effort to study Organic Chemistry and Physics. I only took two courses in the fall semester of 2001.

I disciplined my Self so harshly that I would spend several hours, sometimes up to ten hours a day studying both of these subjects. I thought that if I only focused on these two subjects and did nothing else with my time, I would have a better chance of success and get A's. I was wrong. I was spending 100% of my time studying these courses, and I still only managed to receive a C in Organic Chemistry and B in Physics. It got so bad that my mother was scared that I was going to turn into a monk. I was staying with her at the time and living a very minimalist lifestyle. After that terrible semester, I vowed to never to ever force myself to be predominantly left-brain analytical again. However, what's interesting is that I hadn't realized that I had made up for my analytical weaknesses several times over, that I would have access to more whole-brain thinking than I ever dreamed possible. I was essentially making myself mentally balanced without knowing it.

Even though I never made it anywhere in college, my awareness of my own abilities helped me learn about myself. I could care less about grades or a degree. Knowledge of Self is the only security in a competitive society anyway. It also does help to always overstand your Divine Self.

"[If] you keep your mind open and [don't] get trapped,
you'll notice that everybody's just like everybody else."

-***M***ack 10

Superlearning - Create Mind Maps

If we are going to stop conforming to the discriminations of the left-brain influence in our society, we must become very clever in our creative thought process. There are various tools one can use do develop his or her learning skills to the highest individual potential. For the most part, processes become very important in superlearning. We must find ways to learn rapidly and efficiently, especially as we move from the information age into the more attention grabbing entertainment age. One way to enhance superlearning is to create mind maps.

If you are familiar with Nightjohn and The O.L.O.R.U.N. Companies, Inc. (Our Love Of Rap Unites Nations), you are probably aware of our workbook on time mastery entitled "I Am…" Molecules. In our research, we have learned to base most of our thought processes off of the patterns of nature. Nature is non-linear and Self-organizing. Nature works through networks, webs, and systems. If you recall in our "I Am…" Molecules strategy, we use the symbol of a tree to represent different areas of life with branches that resembled branches of improvement in areas of our lives. Our brains are even a network of neurons that pass on electrochemical information through synapses and patterns.

Think of mind mapping as a process of thinking on paper. No thought is the same, so every type of mind map will be different. To begin a mind map, grab a sheet of large blank paper and several colored pencils, pens, or markers. You want to use big paper so that you will have freedom to let your mind unfold and express itself through your mind map. If the topic of your mind map was "Hiphop," you would begin by sketching a picture symbolic of Hiphop in the middle of the page. For example, maybe you could draw a microphone. The next step would be to draw words through stems that branch out from the microphone. For example, you could draw Breakin', Emceein', Deejayin', Graffiti Art, Beatboxin', Street Fashion, Street Language, and Street Entrepreneurialism. The order or positioning of the words doesn't matter. Go wherever your own mind takes you. Draw freely. (See Diagram below for a simple example)

Once you have drawn the first portion of your mind map, you can always continue the branching off into each area however your mind's thought continues to take you. For example, with Deejayin' you may add extra lines for Cuttin', Mixin' and Scratchin'. For Street Entrepreneurialism you may happen to think of people like P.Diddy or Russell Simmons. For Graffiti Art, you may think of movies like Wild Style or Style Wars. For Emceein', you might happen to think of abstract words like lyrics, rhymes, raps, rhythm, and voice. It doesn't matter what words you write down. This type of exercise is to free your mind and discover for yourself how you naturally think. After you've done the first steps, you can then add color, other doodles, and any more concepts that flow to your mind. You can later number, letter, or label the branches, words, or symbols. It's all up to your mind. Everything else is connected to everything else, so your mind map could cover your whole bedroom floor! It's only finished when you decide when you want to stop working on it, start another one, or let your mind rest.

Practical applications for mind maps are creating songs, writing lyrics, designing album covers, utilizing military tactics, strategic planning, preparing presentations, preparing for tests, analyzing systems, eliminating sabotage from your crew…..and checking for wholes and leaks in your game. We recommend you start with simple mind maps first for simple subjects so you can get familiar with the practice of superlearning.

Mind maps are one element of superlearning. Basically, superlearning is a holistic approach to education. As descendents of Africans isolated in America, we find that the compartmentalized differential approach to learning is inferior. What we seek to do in our own Self-education is learn in ways that are soothing to our Spirits, enlightening for our minds, and energizing for our emotions. Learning for us is an expansion of Self. Whereas, learning in most mainstream institutions is a suppression of Self. We like to learn. We don't like to be trained. With this expansion of Self, we incorporate various forms of rituals with our learning practices.

For example, slow diaphragm breathing aids in whole-brain memory and retention. Eating properly and not too much before studying allows blood to flow to the brain. Being in a comfortable environment when drawing, reading, or writing helps us to relax, leaving our mind more open to ideas. Playing soothing jazz music in the background helps our mind elevate while putting our soul at ease. Learning should not be a chore. Superlearning is a positive healthy addiction to excellence. It's too bad America's schools zap kids brains with fluorescent lights, hard cold chairs, stuffy classrooms, and totalitarian rules. We believe in superlearning to help you unleash your Divine Purpose and be a genius. It's called Superlearning. We do not believe in stupid learning.

"Money definitely helps your situation. I'm not going to tell a kid not to get money and better his or her life. But at the same time, money is not going to end your problems. If anything, it's going to create new problems."

*- Sean "P-*Diddy" Combs

Rap Hustlin' - Balance Business With Art

In your journey through life, you have may have decided part of your Divine Purpose is to sell your art or craft to provide for you and your family. This is perfectly o.k. and a great way to make living. If you do so, please remember not to sell your soul to the devil! Selling out is a simplistic left-brain analytical way to get money. Selling out means you sign a contract and do whatever you see everybody else doing to get money. A sell out thinks too linear, not reflecting back on the whole International Hiphop Community and visualizing us all in health, love, awareness, and wealth.

Having vision, Purpose, goals, and commitment (a right brain practice) allows you to plan ahead and design a long illustrious career of honor, acclaim, reverence, and longevity. Don't be a sucka emcee or a wack rapper just because you broke and you gotta eat! You can successfully balance the learning of business and music, just as you can balance the learning of science and art, or anything left and right brained. In the Hiphop movement, we need more geniuses who are whole brain thinkers, artists who also have the capacity to take over the corporate and money side of the music industry. Especially, for the Purpose of Kultural takeovers and mergers, without destroying the minds of the youth in the process. Why do we have to keep selling the so called poor pipe dreams?

Isn't it time for the Hiphop community to be mature and not flash America's left brained corporate mentality and material

wealth in the faces of inner city youth. We think it's possible to be wealthy, have cars, have nice homes, travel abroad, and have the finest clothes. One can do so, and still teach timeless principles that uplift our people, instead of make watered down music that makes our people brain dead. Call us crazy, but we've never been the type to back down from a challenge. Do we as artists have to make materialism the aim of our music business though? Even if we do, is it possible we can use some of that opulence to gain real control, so we can add balance back to the T.V. and Radio waves. Our objective should be to inspire, educate, and entertain. We are spokespeople for our communities. Is it possible to show examples of wealth and discipline, while keeping heads nodding' for peace and revolution? We think so.

When Jay-Z said he dumbed down for his audience, he literally undermined the potential of us as a people. We take a more holistic approach. We smarten up for our audience. Why dumb down for our audience, when we can smarten up for audiences, while raising them to greater heights. We can inspire them to their potential genius. Is it all about money? What rappers need to do is form mastermind groups, sort of like America's organized crime families have done previously when they worked with the C.I.A. to flood black communities with drugs. We need more artists and entertainers who are geniuses with C.E.O. capabilities combined with Hiphop's creative skillz. Our first approach would be to take over radio, then T.V., and most media outlets with combined money from professional athletes, drug dealers, actors, business owners, and entertainers. It is not impossible, if we are all living a Hiphop Driven Lifestyle. Unfortunately, such a vision could be easily corrupted by people who are greedy and do not believe in simply unity, let alone uplifting civilization or humanity. Come on geniuses it's up to you to bring your best ideas to the table.

"Patience is a must, not a virtue. Without it, you help to create friction and turmoil. With it, you help to expedite the manifestation of your visions and dreams!"

-Lord G

Old Soul - Balance Knowledge With Life Experience

Whole brain thought is an everlasting life cycle that may not have started with you and may not end with you. There may be no beginning or end to your existence. Hiphop is the Alpha And Omega. Do you have an old soul? Have you always appeared to be older than your numerical age. If so, chances are that you have an old soul. We're not going to go to deep into reincarnation, because it is out of the scope of this book, but think about the fact that you could not control your birth. You also will not be able to control your death. What is the animating essence that makes you think, speak, and act? Is consciousness something within you that has existed before in another form? Ponder these questions as you simultaneously accumulate knowledge with life experience.

If your consciousness is only a ripple through time, then you've probably experienced déjà vu from time to time. It's only natural. Knowing that the knowledge you accumulate while on earth may or may not be continued helps you make the best of your life experience while here. Strive to leave some type of legacy while you are on Earth. You never know; you may witness the fruit of your work while in a pure Spirit form. Wouldn't that be unbelievable! What if other Spirits are even working through you to create. Life is so much of a mystery that we can only be humbled by the power of the Universe. Dive deeper into your own soul by balancing whole brain thought. Your mental balance will most likely give you the rewards of your dreams.

"You don't get a second chance.
One wrong move on the streets and you're dead."

-Ced

Stay Chiseled - Do Brain teasers/Mental Workouts

As young Hiphop thinkers in America, we have to use our whole brain thinking to stay sharp. We do not want our lives to Self-destruct before the age of twenty-five. We do not want to be continually hoodwinked and bamboozled. We don't want to live a life of poverty, disease, and shame. We do not want to be locked behind bars. We do not want to be brainwashed in America's educational spin cycle! We do not want to always work menial jobs and be pimped through taxation! We do not want future generations to go through any of this torment either!

In order to avoid disaster and hell on earth, we must stay mentally fit, we must workout our brains, and we must stay chiseled. It's no different than it is for sports or physical fitness. If you do not work on your muscles, they will atrophy and you will become weak. Likewise, if you do not work on your mind, you will become dull and slow, leaving you susceptible to tricknology, mind control, and politricks. Think about your mind like a computer. If you don't maintain the right software and protect it, you will get all kinds of nasty pop ups that would slow down the computer and make it almost impossible to use. Our minds aren't much

different. Popups are synonymous with Advertisers in America who will stop at nothing to get a piece of your mind while robbing you of peace of mind. Stay sharp and be a free thinker.

It is very true that if you don't use it, you'll lose it. Try shooting basketball with your left hand instead of your right. Try brushing your teeth with your left hand, instead of your right. It's difficult isn't it! (That's of course if you're right handed, left handers do the opposite). In other words, do things to keep your mind active. Don't just sit in front of the T.V. watching Channel Zero day after day. Do not watch B.E.T. or M.T.V. Live a little, see if you can be on M.T.V. or B.E.T. without acting like a minstrel character (How's that for a brain teaser). Do crossword puzzles, brain teasers, math problems. Plan strategies and tactics. Write raps and poetry. Freestyle for 30 minutes straight. Always do something for your mind. Your mind will then always be sharp, alert, and ready for you to apply it to any challenge you give it. Mental clarity is a reward for consistently developing your mind.

"There is no substitution for happiness. Period."

*-Suge K*night, CEO of Death Row Records

Be Off The Cuff - Challenge Conditioned Patterns

Your brain needs renewal. If you drive to work the same way day after day, switch it up. If you take the same bus or train everyday, change routes. Stay fresh. If you listen to the same songs day after day, you eventually get conditioned into a pattern of behavior that you do day after day. Get up, get out, and go do something. Get off your ass and stay on your toes. Break at least one major habit every 21 days. It takes 21 days to form a new habit. Your habits should constantly be in and out of rotation. Doing so will keep your whole brain stimulated. Go to different places. Keep life fresh. The Hiphop Driven Life is one of adventure, activity, and peace of mind. Do not drive yourself insane by doing *the same 'ol thang*.

Don't write the same 'ol thing in your lyrics. Why do we have to keep guns, violence, pimping, and drugs in our music? How long will it take to be aware that these forces are destroying our communities, and that the more we bob our heads to these forces, the more our communities will deteriorate? Innovate, especially in your love of Hiphop. We can still be hard, passionate, and stylish without polluting the minds of the youth. Don't be afraid to be a pioneer and be off the cuff. The last thing we need is to keep repeating all the death and tragedy in our music that will surely have us extinct if we continue at this rate.

We wrote this book before ever making ourselves known in the game. We are proving a point. We are being original and off the cuff. We are Hiphop. We are proving that the conscious word precedes the action and entertainment industry. The industry is the slave to the word, not the other way around. We don't chase record executives. Record executives chase us because we have the skills, intellect, and conviction that serves humanity and sells. We are raising the level for emcees. We are challenging emcees to battle with books. The book with the most social impact and inspiring revelations for the movement wins. Come on'! Too many people forgot the rules of the game. They forgot that in Hiphop you study…then you create. People forgot the rules to this shit. It's not wise to create rap music blindly. Hustlin' blind is foolish.

Such would be acting without knowing your Divine Purpose. Such is ultimate failure in Hiphop. Do not crawl into the game. Stand up boys. Be a man, walk into the game. Stand up girls. Be a woman, walk into the game. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "can't no body ride your back unless it's bent."

Are you conditioned to mimicking what you see on T.V? Why do you wear the clothes you wear? Is it because your internal Spirit chose those clothes, or is your left brain thinking it's the straight line to being like your favorite rapper? Do you try to fit in at school, at college, at home, at work, or anywhere for that matter? Do you have a plan to break the assimilation cycle? We know it is not easy, we have been there. It will help for you to be aware of your motives for following the crowd before stepping outside the crowd. Otherwise you may lack so much confidence that you get caught up. You may be a Neo nicca, a geo nicca, or a Morpheus nicca. Either way we know that being off the cuff will help you avoid mind control and break conditioned patterns as you navigate our lovely American society.

"God sends us here with exactly what we need, the perfect height, the perfect looking face, the perfect voice, the perfect everything to accomplish whatever it is you're here for."

*-Ind*ia Arie

Jewels & Gems – Knowledge, Wisdom, Overstanding

King Solomon only asked God for Knowledge, Wisdom, and Understanding; that's all he needed. The rest was history. He was wealthy in jewels and gems, but his wealth began with the jewels and gems of thought. Study your lessons and you will also have everything you could ever need and want in your life. Failure to study, learn, and grow, means failure to discover your Divine

Purpose and genius within. The only way to use both sides of your brain is to….use both sides of your brain.

We specifically recommend mythology, religion, Egyptian symbolism, and world history, though there are other genres that are equally satisfying. Developing a worldview is a painstaking process. However, once you develop deeper insight into the world, your liberation will simultaneously unfold. Like we stated earlier, your knowledge is a result of reading and gathering information. Your wisdom is a result of real life experience. Wisdom is developed by a combination of the books you read, the people you meet, and your experiences. Your understanding (overstanding) is a result of completely comprehending the deepest meaning of your wisdom. Continue the triad of Knowledge, Wisdom, and Overstanding throughout your life.

Listen to lyrics of wise emcees who have displayed longevity. As you proceed with The Hiphop Driven Life, you will need inspiration, education, empowerment, and salvation. Sometimes all you need to get through a tough situation is soul music. Use the soul music of authentic Hiphop to help you. The spoken word does wonders to the caged bird. The lyrics of Spirit heal the heart when it's near it. This is why we call the versed rhymes and teachings of Hiphop sages, jewels and gems. These particular words simply sparkle as if rays of sunlight were hitting a prism, and distributing a rainbow of colors glistening in your mind. At last there is hope and inspiration for your vision, Purpose, and goals. The jewels and gems keep you satisfied. Part of your mission and Divine Purpose is to take these jewels and gems and trade with other like minded Hiphop Driven people so that you can build. When you build, connect on deep thought and shine one love. Stay real, it's the best thing you can ever do for your whole mind….and Hiphop.

"You can perpetrate whatever kinda fraud you want on T.V. or in magazines, but the people in the street, you can't hide from them. People gonna see what the real is, the word is gonna get out.
So you might as well be real with people."

- Bun B (AKA U.G.K.)

Lay Low - Take a T.V. Radio, Media, Computer Fast

As you progress within the context of a Hiphop Driven Life, learn to bubble on the low. Sometimes the best thing you can do is shut everything down and go off into nature. Sometimes nature is our only escape from the madness of our society. We suggest taking a 30 day mental fast from T.V., movies, radio, magazines, the internet, and computers. If you want to do the 30 day come hard mental fast, you can eliminate reading, speaking, or being around people as well. The main focus of laying low is to listen to your inner being for a change.

Your whole brain is bombarded daily with external stimuli. It's too much. The essence of finding your Divine Purpose will be in solitude. It will not be found at a mainstream club like Dream in D.C. for damn sure! You ain't gonna find your Divine Purpose while surfing the internet either. You may find ideas, but your Divine Purpose is an eternal desire that only solitude can help you build within your Self.

All of the great Spiritual teachers throughout history have emphasized the importance of solitude to awaken the higher Self. Why not model their example? When you close your ears and eyes to the ways of mankind, you open your mind up to the ways of Infinite Intelligence. You tap into what's eternal. No matter what you are going through in life, when you tap into all things eternal, life will be renewed and you will become enlightened. Your level of enlightenment will change as you adapt more and proceed with a deeper connection with your Creator.

We have an overstanding of the solstice celebration, ideas passed on by brother Yousef Rahz. An ideal time to begin such a mental fast would be during the Summer and Winter Solstice Celebration period. A solstice is a celestial event in which either of the two times in a twelve month period, the sun reaches an extreme North or South position. We call these two times of the year Winter and Summer. During these times of year all the life on earth responds to a dramatic and peculiar change by adapting to its environment. The coldest period is the winter, in which the Sun is at the extreme North. During this period of time, the earth enters a state of great sleep (hibernation), and in many cases dies as it is blanketed in sheets of white snow. In the Spring, life begins to awaken, and everything that was once dead is reborn. By the summer, it is completely resurrected, and has pushed forth its beauty to be used and viewed by all the living creatures of the earth.

By viewing nature as part of ourselves and vice versa, we gain an overstanding of the great Spiritual rebirth that is made available to us twice a year on a natural scale. The Solstice Celebration consists of two three-day events at different times of the year. During the three days, an individual is given the opportunity to fall back into accord with nature, shed their negative Self-image, and be re-born as a positive being. By undergoing these changes, we not only improve our personal beings, but our relationship with others as well.

The Winter Solstice begins on December 21st, and ends on December the 23rd. The summer Solstice begins on the 22nd of June, and ends on the 24th of June. In each day, there should be points of focus and analysis in regard to ones personal being. The first thing that one must do in order to improve themselves is to identify the negative being within. After identifying the negative being, we must analyze the nature of its habits, thereby recognizing the negative affect it has on others and ourselves as well.

Once we have analyzed this negative being, we must destroy it, cast away its waste, redesign our new positive Self-image, build that positive Self-image, and then apply that positive being into our daily life.

By doing so, we will come to witness in ourselves what the earth goes through twice a year every year; Its life, its death, its rebirth (redesign), and its resurrection. It is called a celebration, because we should rejoice at our re-emergence into the world as new beings, with a greater appreciation for life, and a greater sense of understanding. In this mindstate we are given the opportunity to improve ourselves physically, mentally, and Spiritually within a three-day period, twice a year. The Solstice Celebration is a communal event, as it should be, to share and receive further enlightenment, but can be practiced alone. This in no way limits those who wish to make daily changes in their life from doing so, but concentrates on a particular time of the year that coincides with the forces of nature, making it extra meaningful and Divine.

Like we mentioned before, it has been a practice since ancient times to retreat during the time of Spiritual cleansing into a place of seclusion, avoiding contact with the multiple distractions of the world. Though this practice is not mandatory , it is one of the more beneficial practices, as it allows us to completely sever ties with those things that are usually anchors to our progress, even if only for a little while. Just as nature goes through a certain number of changes to adapt to a change in its environment, so must we. These changes are few, but necessary to fully complete the preparation for this objective. These changes are listed here:

1. Abstain from the consumption of meat (including seafood), for the entire three days. This not only provides for Spiritual growth, but adds to a physical cleansing as well, allowing the digestive system to properly facilitate its function as it was designed to do.

2. Drink water, green vegetable drinks, and/or non-carbonated fruit juices as libation, for the entire three-days. By abstaining from carbonated drinks, and alcoholic beverages, we allow the organs to flush and replenish themselves. Water is also the representation of the mind and soul, if it is not pure, then it is harmful to the body.

3. Eat fresh fruits, vegetables, grains (rice), bread, nuts, and berries as a form of sustenance. This allows the antioxidants inside of each vegetable to assist in the digestive process, increasing energy. This also allows the consumed fruits to help in reducing and fighting developing diseases and/or viruses.

4. Refrain from sexual activity, and if possible all sexually related thoughts, and forms of entertainment for the full three-days. This is to avoid compromising the objective, by contaminating the mind and further altering its flow of energy. Abstinence also increases consciousness, which stimulates understanding and rationality.

5. Refrain from all forms of entertainment, i.e. television, loud music, and electronic distractions. This is also to avoid compromising the objective, by contaminating the mind and further altering its flow of energy.

6. Attempt to decrease and/or eradicate the use of profanity from our vocabulary. Vulgarity in many cases is due to a lack of ability to express ones Self, which usually results in negative interaction. By abandoning this practice, we find an alternative form of expression to the violent and negative use of words and actions.

7. Wear light and loose clothing, particularly white. Both women and men should cover themselves appropriately as to preserve sexuality and maintain a base level of respect for their own bodies as well as others.

8. Do not wear metallic jewelry, for the entire three days, with exception to wedding rings and wrist watches. Although, it is recommended that watches not be worn. Accessories detract from the inner light of ones being, and are points of focus and emphasis, and are therefore a distraction to the objective.

9. Groom and/or maintain all nails and facial hairs, for the entire three days. This adds to a personally appealing Self-image, hygiene being the prime benefit. Also, people who are in your presence will be able to see your state of improvement as it invites them to improve themselves.

10. Burn incense and aromatic candles, during the entire three days. This adds to a psychological bearing, of relaxing and resting in places with pleasing scents and soothing lights, also allowing meditation (in its many forms) to come more naturally. The wearing of perfumes and/or scented oils is beneficial, but only optional.

In case that one can not completely seclude themselves or retreat as they wish, there are alternatives. One alternative, is to remain in the homestead, and only leave for emergency purposes, or extenuating circumstances, where one is left with no distraction. However, none of this has any effect, if an individual's mind is not set on preservation. As well as abstaining from certain practices, there are also practices to indulge in such as:

1. Greet and dismiss all guests with the blessings of peace. This helps to create a serene and calm atmosphere, in the hopes

that positivity may prevail. It also allows the overstanding that may be developed between ones Self, sisters, and brethren. It is pleasing to the lips, and delightful to the ears. It is also a positive action, which in turn generates a positive response.

2. Meditate for at least 15min. a day at some point during the day. This helps to calm ones Spirit, and open their receptive senses, that clarity of thought and of action may be obtained. To be filled with the Universal breath of life, one must be ready to receive. If the mind is cluttered , how can such a gem be recognized?

3. Read, and/or write progressive material dedicated to personal growth –free of material want. It is to refrain from focusing on obtaining material objects, personal wealth, or status (whether business related or secular) during this time, for this clouds the mind and compromises the objective.

4. To recite, and/or display a portion of the material dedicated to personal growth. This is to allow for others to become inspired and share your personal growth. This is also recognized as a positive action, because it initiates progress and development.

In our quest for overstanding, we must sometimes relieve ourselves of unnecessary baggage. Yet, we often incur many new things along the way If we let those things be things we need and not things we want, then so much lighter the load would be…and so much easier the travel.

"There's nothing correct about the department of corrections at all.
At the same time, nobody can rehabilitate anybody.
You have to rehabilitate yourself."

-*N*oreaga of Capone-N-Noreaga

Hold Your Own - Learn through Self-Education

God bless the children who can hold their own. If Hiphop is the North Star to freedom, Self-education is the moss on the trees helping you determine each step along your journey. We must continually and thoroughly educate our selves on a broad range of topics. How can you figure out who you are, if you haven't developed a curiosity to educate yourself? The more you learn, the more you know what you like and dislike; which helps you determine what you may or may not want to spend your life doing.

Build a library of books, audios, documentaries, and videos that help you make connections in your unique view of the world. Studying is not only limited to reading. Many advocates for Self-education suggest that you learn to pursue your own projects that are meaningful, challenging, and engaging. No one can teach you as well as you can teach yourself. You are the one who knows the most about what you don't know…if that makes any sense to you?

Take part in experiences you are afraid of, situations that make you uncomfortable, and challenges that seem insurmountable. Your whole brain will enjoy the mental workout. Set new standards for yourself and work to reach your personal best. Expect more from yourself than anyone could ever possibly expect from you and your education will be stellar. Make your Self-education a unique representation of yourself. Stand out from the boring and lame crowd. Soon that crowd of fearful people may pay you millions of dollars at a time to display your brilliance whether in music, business, entertainment, speaking, writing, specialized knowledge, or technical expertise.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of specialized knowledge. Knowing how to do something is so vital in our society. You may have all the highest degrees and be able to write all sorts of complex books about abstract theories with SAT words; but if you cannot get practical things done in America, it's all a waste. The heart of a democracy is in holistic people who possess the balance of mental, physical, Spiritual, and productive capabilities; not intellectual mind masturbation. America is about function and specialization. With the right specialized knowledge, Divine Purpose, vision, and goals, a person can function with poise and grace. Without specialized knowledge, a person is like all thought, all talk, no walk, and all lost.

In addition to specialized knowledge; in your Self-education curriculum; make sure you pump yourself steadily with profound knowledge. Profound knowledge is simple practical insight that helps you apply strategies and tactics you learn in basic everyday life. The book you are reading now is profound knowledge…we hope you are having a profound experience. Profound knowledge is found within the philosophical, Self-help, motivation, and Spiritual genres of books. This type of knowledge is like quotes from proverbs or psalms, Zen koans, or keys to wealth and success.

Profound knowledge is simple and powerful. By keeping such wisdom around you, your capacity to grow and evolve is expanded infinitely. If specialized knowledge is like your engine in the car of life, profound knowledge is like your oil. You must change the oil of your habitual actions and behaviors every 21 days. Make a habit of it! If you only know how to do things in a headstrong stubborn narrow minded focus (you never change your oil), it's like working hard and never smart. Your engine will

overheat and you'll make so many mistakes that it could take you a lifetime to recover or get results. You may give up or die before you get anywhere. You would be spinning your wheels. Someone who always cycles profound knowledge through their mind (changes their oil), will achieve results smoothly, successfully, and easily.

"You have to have faith in God, you have to stay committed, and you have to have emotional, mental, and physical stamina. That's important. I do what I do based on that."

-LL Cool J

Food For Thought - Habits to Boost Brain Power

Realize that your brain is an organ that needs tender loving care just like your heart, lungs, kidneys, liver….and yes genitalia. Would you mutilate any of these vital organs? So why then would you mutilate your brain? So many people mutilate their brains everyday in our society, it can be quite sickening. What is brain mutilation?

Brain mutilation is when you constantly subject your brain to anything from cell phones, to microwaves, to T.V. screens, to computer screens, to internet addiction, to brainwashing in schools, churches, colleges, corporations etc. without giving your brain time to recuperate and harmoniously stimulate itself. Your brain needs oxygen, stimulation, exertion, and neural firing. If your brain is constantly being manipulated, you lose all possibility of being a whole brain thinker. You become a Neanderthal, a pre-programmed Neo in a contained matrix. Many people in our society act like monkeys, chimpanzees, and mice in mazes. Many people are so caught in reaction, that their hot buttons are pushed in split seconds like Pavlov's dog. Where do you thing all our black on black crime comes from? The free use of your brain in a proactive and Purposeful matter is one of the greatest gifts our Creator has blessed us with. Why have so many people mutilated their brains?

We can't help but to return to our thoughts on mind control and profit driven emotional persuasion. Maybe it would be hard for certain people in America to make money if there weren't masses of people caught in the smoke and mirror illusions. It's like lures are constantly dangled in front of the glazed over eyeballs of the body politic. Don't be a Black, White, Latino, Asian, Native American, or Indian zombie. Don't believe the hype! Don't mutilate your brain. Stimulate your brain. Your brain is like a transistor radio that can tune into the Infinite Intelligence of the Universe. Some people would like for your brain to be fuzz and static so they can make you think their channel or station (beliefs) is the only one that works. Some people would like for your brain to regurgitate their beliefs. Some people would like for your brain to make money for their greedy motives. Some people would like for your brain to perform like it were a VHS tape. Some people would like to fry your brain on crack, cocaine, LSD, weed, heroin, Prozac, Ritalin, liquor, and ecstasy. Have you ever asked yourself what you would like your brain to do? If you don't make a choice to find Divine Purpose and be a genius in your own way, someone will surely find a way to use your brain to their advantage and gain. What you gonna do with your brain? Just a lil' food for thought. We hope it nourishes, energizes, and sparks your brain for a change. See. There are other ways to get a buzz.

"Hip-hop is a blessing because the [Poor] Righteous Teachers, Brand Nubian, and KRS-One have actually been the educational system for Black kids, in place of the so-called educational system that is entirely financed by the American government. And in the absence of the voice of young people in hip-hop, we would have even more chaos than we have today."

- ***Sister Souljah***, *interviewed Gordon Chambers, "Souljah's Mission," Essence (December 199):108*
Source: Droppin' Science: Critical Essays on Rap Music And Hip Hop Culture

Principle 6

Poetry In Motion:
Mind = Body = Soul

"An artist's expression is his soul made apparent, his schooling, as well as his "cool" being exhibited. Behind every motion, the music of his soul is made visible. Otherwise, his motion is empty and empty motion is like an empty word – no meaning."

-Bruce Lee

Both of us are athletes and martial artists, so we value our physical bodies just as much as we value our mental or Spiritual attributes. There are three 120° aspects of human spherical cipher of 360°. This infinitely Divine shape (the shape of earth, moon, sun, and stars) is a Universal representation of a persons whole Self. There is mind, body, and soul sphericity that is essential to a geniuses life. All should be balanced and maintained in equivalent measure. We call this "Poetry in Motion." We're not sure of where else you may have heard this term, or what you may specifically relate to poetry in motion. For us, poetry in motion is the actualization of our thought and feeling into a physical manifestation that revolves around knowledge, wisdom, and overstanding. To manifest ourselves, we balance mind, body, and soul appropriately through sphericity. (See diagram below).

Part of your Divine Purpose is to keep your cipher in equilibrium using the principle of sphericity. You must maintain physical, mental, and Spiritual balance. Have you ever heard of the game rock, scissors, paper that is played with your hands? Have you ever played that game? Well, if you recall, rock breaks scissors, paper covers rock, and scissors cut paper. When you put out your hand you are displaying a gesture that could resemble rock, paper, or scissors. It would seem that one would be better than the other, but intellectually you know that you can win against your opponent if you balance your choice of rock, paper, or scissors. You wouldn't just play rock every single time, your opponent would catch on and play paper to cover your rock. You wouldn't just play scissors every time, your opponent would catch on and play rock to break your scissors. You wouldn't play paper every time, your opponent would catch on and play scissors and cut your paper. Psychologically, you know that to win you would have to vary your plays so the odds are in your favor. Likewise, you must vary your exertion of mind, body, and soul, so the game of life's odds are in your favor.

Think of your physical body as being like the rock. If you are all muscle and no brains or soul, what do you have? A blockhead. A caveman. A gorilla pimp. Always using force to reach an objective is not wise. Only perfecting the body, makes a person simplistic and controllable. The strong rule the weak, but the wise rule the strong. It also chimes in that the tougher they are the harder they fall. Bruce Lee was notorious for demonstrating that balance, rather than brawn alone, is always victorious. Muhammad Ali could "float like a butterfly and sting like a bee," and tell you about it in a freestyle rhyme before he did it! Ali and Bruce Lee are prime examples of Poetry in Motion. Those two men were not just athletes alone, they had mental and Spiritual power behind their skills, which made them unstoppable. They were living Hiphop Driven lives as Divine geniuses….only they didn't know at the time.

Think of your mental capacity as being like the scissors. If all you know how to do is read, analyze things, and intellectualize what do you have? An A.I. robot. A hermit. A computer brain. Only relying on knowledge alone to reach objectives is not wise either. Only perfecting the mind makes a person too theoretical and not capable of living freely. Such a person then normally suffers from terrible bouts of paralysis by analysis. Like scissors the brain and mind can be sharpened, using decision to cut off courses of action not in align with a persons best interests. However, if all a person can do is plan and strategize, when does the action start! When does a person fully live. Bill Gates was a computer whiz kid, but did he just sit around in his garage forever? No. He got off his ass and hustled. He found a way to APPLY his ideas. It took Spirit and physical stamina to run around marketing his ideas to reach his objective. He had a vision, Purpose, and goals…though he may have achieved them in his own unique way.

Think of your Spiritual capacity as being like paper. If all you know how to do is meditate, fast, and channel energy? What do you have? A fairy. A wisp. A feather that can be easily blown adrift like a thin sheet of paper. Only relying on Spirit alone to reach objectives is not wise either. Only evolving the Spirit and inner being makes a person too abstract and incapable of living with functioning Purpose. Meditating on a mountain top for a few days is cool, but life is more than celibacy and esoteric practices. Like paper, the Spirit can mold itself into form. It can animate living beings.

Without a physical body, the Spirit might as well go to another galaxy. Without a mind, the Spirit has nowhere to direct it's energy. On Earth, we have to deal with bodily functions, hunger, love, sex, human reproduction, children, mind control, police brutality, and taxes. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X were very Spiritual men. What if Dr. King was not physically fit enough to lead a march on Washington…and get up enough mental power to speak to influence. It would be hard for him to declare he had a dream if he was meditating in the wilderness somewhere.

What if Brother Malcolm was not capable of disciplining himself to mentally absorb and study various forms of knowledge as diligently as he did, then jump in his car opening up temples for the Nation of Islam everywhere…and use his

mental power to speak, influence, debate, evolve, and even travel to Africa. These brothers had the lightest Spirits, almost as light as sheets of paper or feathers for that matter; because they were serving humanity. However, they kept their bodies strong and their minds sharp to combat evil forces that wished to prevent the masses of people from getting their Divine message. In retrospect, Malcolm and Martin were living Hiphop Driven lives, and they still are through the multi-skilled, multi-cultural, multi-faith, multi-racial people all over the world who are currently establishing Hiphop as an International Kulture for peace and prosperity with their legacy.

'Sometimes I think I am [over scrutinized], but that comes with the territory, so I don't really complain about it.
I just gottta handle it. I'm blessed to be where I am.
That's one of the things that comes with success."

-Sean "P. Diddy" Combs

Keep it Dolo - Re-Discover Self-Mastery

There is only one you. There was only one Superfly. There was only one Tupac. There was only one Biggie. There is only one Bayo. There is only one A.K. There is only one YOU. Be a genius and find your Divine Purpose now. Re-discover YOU. Re-discover your own type of Self-mastery. We suggest you keep it dolo if you need to. Bubble on the low for a while. There are so many negative people running around, that the odds are against you that you will find people bending over backwards to help you live your dream. Rarely will your dream come and knock on your door in the form of some beautiful woman or handsome man and say, "Hey there, you ready to start that company, here's $20,000 cash." That shit may be in a movie somewhere, but it don't happen in real life.

Most people are not living their dreams, so you will face great opposition in your Divine quest to be a genius. We've all mentioned the crabs in a bucket syndrome over and over again. When you rise up, there's some hata or instigator ready to snatch you back down into misery. It takes an equal amount of Mind, Body, and Soul sphericity to overcome such opposition and resistance. You must be mentally prepared. You must be physically prepared. Most of all you must be Spiritually prepared. Your mind must have the capability of outthinking everyone. Otherwise, you will fall short somewhere, and your dreams will not be fulfilled. You gotta roll for dolo.

We are providing you with the ideas that will help you follow through and succeed. It is up to YOU alone to apply them. The poetry is set in motion when you begin living what you think and thinking more carefully about how you live. Taking care of your health and body is the first step to maintaining mind, body, and soul. Because your emotions are determined largely by biochemistry and physiology, take the time to heal the temple of your physique. There is a science of being well, just like there is a science of rap, and a science of getting rich.

"If you keep doing what you love,
there's nothing people can do about it."
-Pete Rock

Raw Uncut - Eat Healthy

You are what you eat. What you put into your body will determine what results come out of your efforts. If you put garbage into your body, your life will remain in the dumps. It's all karma. What goes in your mouth becomes who you are. One of the first keys to keeping a well maintained physique is putting the best quality food and nutrients to fuel your body. Foods are like chemicals that interact with the biochemistry of your body. You must learn to eat by the chemical reactions you expect in your body rather than the taste of foods alone. Otherwise, you will be a victim to your cravings and desires for unhealthy food.

Do not waste your time counting food calories, fat grams, or food portions. Fad diets and other abrupt dietary changes usually don't work. The best way to eat healthily is to be conscious of what you eat, eat in moderation, and drink plenty of water. Nothing replaces Self-discipline and controlling your own urges. There is only one sickness, one disease, and one cure. The one sickness is the over acidification of the blood due to an improper way of thinking, living, and eating. The one disease is a low blood PH level that is highly acidic causing the build up of toxins and Candida (yeast formation) and toxic microforms in the body. Any symptoms to any disease come from the over acidification of the body. The cure is to hydrate, eat water rich foods, and alkalize your body.

Our blood is best maintained at 7.365pH (slightly basic), similar to our body temperature being maintained at 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The more acid in the blood stream, the lower the pH. The more alkalized the blood, the higher the pH level. It takes twenty parts alkaline to eliminate one part acid (20:1). Most foods that are marketed the most in grocery stores are: junk food, processed, meats pumped with hormones, sweets, dairy, and highly greasy/fatty foods cause a high acid content in our blood. Dark

green vegetables, fruits, nuts, and grains tend to cause a more alkaline environment in our blood.

The is only one cure, to eat foods that are highly water rich and alkaline, which oxygenate the blood and help create healthy blood cells that are plump. Thus, the blood moves through the body with relative ease. The PH level of the blood also becomes more basic with a higher PH level. (See Diagrams acidity (-), alkalinity (+)

Alkaline food to eat = Balanced Blood pH

Vegetables & Low Sugar Fruits

Peas ripe	+0.5	Sorrel	+11.5
Asparagus	+1.1	Spinach	+13.1
Artichokes	+1.3	Garlic	+13.2
Comfrey	+1.5	Celery	+13.3
Green cabbage	+2.0	Tomato	+13.6
Lettuce	+2.2	Fresh Cabbage	+14.1
Onion	+3.0	Fresh Endive	+14.5
Cauliflower	+3.1	Avocado	+15.6
White Radish (Spring)	+3.1	Red Radish	+16.7
Rutabaga	+3.1	Cayenne Pepper	+18.8
White Cabbage	+3.3	Straw Grass	+21.4
Green Cabbage	+4.0	Shave Grass	+21.7
Savoy Cabbage	+4.5	Dog Grass	+22.6
Lamb's Lettuce	+4.8	Dandelion	+22.7
Fresh Peas	+5.1	Kamut Grass	+27.6
Kohlrabi	+5.1	Barley Grass	+28.7
Zucchini	+5.7	Soy Sprouts	+29.5
Red Cabbage	+6.3	Sprouted radish seeds	+28.4
Rhubarb Stalks	+6.3	Sprouted Chia Seeds	+28.5
Horseradish	+6.8	Alfalfa Grass	+29.3
Leeks	+7.2	Fresh Cucumber	+31.5
Watercress	+7.7	Wheat Grass	+33.8
Spinach	+8.0	Summer black radish	+39.4
Turnip	+8.0	Lemon	+9.9
Lime	+8.2	Fresh Cut Beans	+11.2
Chives	+8.3	Fresh Red Beet	+11.3
Carrot	+9.5		

Non-stored Organic Grains & Legumes

Brown Rice	–12.5	Lima Beans	+12.0
Wheat	–10.1	White (Navy) beans	+12.1
Buckwheat groats	–0.5	Granulated Soy	+12.8
Millet	–0.5	Soy Nuts	
Spelt	–0.5	(soaked soybeans, then air dried)	
Lentils	+0.6		+26.5
Soy flour	+2.5	Pure Soy Lecithin	+38.0
Tofu	+3.2		

Nuts and Seeds

Wheat Kernel	–11.4	Flax Seeds	–1.3
Walnuts	–8.0	Brazil Nuts	–0.5
Pumpkin seeds	–5.6	Sesame Seeds	+0.5
Sunflower seeds	–5.4	Cumin Seeds	+1.1
Macadamia Nuts	–3.2	Fennel Seeds	+1.3
Hazel Nuts	–2.0	Caraway Seeds	+2.3
		Almond	+3.6

Fats (Fresh, Cold-Pressed Oils), Water, Fish

Sunflower Oil	–6.7	Distilled Water (neutral)	
Ghee	–1.6	Fresh coconut water	+9.04
Coconut milk	–1.5	Freshwater fish	-11.8
Olive Oil	+1.0		
Borage oil	+3.2		
Flax seed oil	+3.5		
Evening primrose oil	+4.1		
Marine lipids	+4.7		

"It's all a part of being young. A lot of them is on drugs. Yes you are. I am talking about you. You all taking Ecstasy, smoking cocaine. Smoking weed, drinking, having unprotected sex. You're fucking idiots, man. Basically, you're fucking idiots. You are throwing your fucking life away. Then, when you get older, you have got nothing but regrets…You can get wild and shit, but have some discretion. You don't know shit. Don't play yourself to where it's detrimental to your health."

-Method Man of Wu-Tang Clan

The pH of Fruit

Rose Hips	-15.5	Cranberry	–7.0
Pineapple	–12.6	Lack Currant	–6.1
Mandarine Orange	–11.5	Strawberry	–5.4
Ripe Bannana	–10.1	Blueberry	–5.3
Pear	–9.9	Rasberry	–5.1
Peach	–9.7	Yellow Plum	–4.9
Apricot	– 9.5	Italian Plum	–4.9
Papaya	–9.4	Date	–4.7
Orange	–9.2	Sweet Cherry	–3.6
Mango	–8.7	Red Currant	–2.4
Tangerine	–8.5	Grapefruit	–1.7
Currant	–8.2	Fresh coconut	+0.5
Ripe Gooseberry	–7.7	Sour Cherry	+3.5
Ripe Grape	–7.6	Unripe Banana	+4.8

"I've finally realized I can't smoke five blunts a day and still handle shit. You can't act like your still on the block when it comes to doing business."

***-Na*S**

One way to get all the positive energy you need is to drink fresh juices and green drinks. Our bodies operate off a subtle electrical current. Most of our organs operate at a frequency of about 70-90 megahertz. If you eat a hamburger (5 megahertz), chicken (5 megahertz), or chocolate cake (2-3 megahertz), it takes your body energy to digest such foods.

Likewise, live foods like grasses, green vegetables, herbs, and ruffage contain 70+ megahertz in their live cellular content. For example, we don't eat roses, but they contain 250+ megahertz of energy. This is why the power of a rose is so inebriating. One book we recommend reading is The PH Miracle, by Dr. Robert Young, who founded a network marketing company called Innerlight which has highly energizing nutritional supplements. One product in particular is "Supergreens," a green drink that has approximately 250-300 megahertz of energy, contains 49 different grasses, and at least 5lbs worth of vegetables.

Acidic Foods To Avoid = lowers pH = toxins

Root Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, Fish, Milk & Dairy

Corn	-9.6	Ousters	-5.0
Stored potatoes	+2.0	Liver	-3.0
Pork	–38.0	Organ Meats	-3.0
Veal	-35.0	Hard cheese	–18.1
Beef	–34.5	Quark	–17.3
Ocean Fish	–20.0	Cream	–3.9
Chicken	–18.0 to –22.0	Homogenized Milk	–1.0
Eggs	-18.0 to –22.0	Buttermilk	+1.3

Bread, Biscuits (Stored Grains/Risen Dough), Nuts, Fats

White Bread	-10.0	Peanuts	–12.8
White biscuit	–6.5	Macadamia	–11.7
Whole-meal bread	–6.5	Cashews	–9.3
Whole-grain bread	–4.5	Margarine	–65
Rye Bread	–2.5	Butter	–3.9
Pistachios	–16.6		

Sweets, Condiments, Beverages

Artificial Sweeteners	-26.5	Honey	-7.6
White sugar	-17.6	Vinegar	-39.4
Beet Sugar	-15.1	Soy Sauce	-36.2
Molasses	–14.6	Mustard	–19.2
Dr. Bronner's Barley Malt		Mayonnaise	-12.5
Sweetener	-9.8	Ketchup	-12.4
Dried sugar cane juice		Liquor	-28.6 to –38.7
(sucanat)	-9.6	Fruit juices white	–33.4
Fructose	–9.5	Tea (black)	–27.1
Turbinado sugar	–9.5	Beer	–26.8
Milk Sugar	–9.4	Coffee	–25.1
Barley Malt Syrup	-9.3	Wine	–16.4
Brown Rice Syrup	-8.7	Fruit juice, packaged, natural	-8.7

"It's the weak. and cowardly that depend on drugs everyday."

*-South Par*k Mexican

Neva Fall Off – U Gotta Train Every Day

Your health and vitality begin in your mind. The image or vision you have of your physical body is what will manifest in reality. If you think you are getting older, stiffer, and losing strength; these characteristics will become who you are. If you visualize yourself as staying vibrant, healthy, and youthful, you will be in outstanding shape and appear much younger than your age. Each individual should accept personal responsibility for his or her well-being. In regard to medicine, the emphasis in the Western world is always on cures, prescriptions, and surgery. For a Hiphop Driven Life, the emphasis is steadfastly set on prevention, fitness, wellness and natural holistic healing. Don't fall into the trap of thinking doctors are going to fix your body. Learn to take care of your body with detailed care. Take responsibility for your health and wellness. Your life depends on it.

Flesh of your flesh, blood of your blood; your existence is a ripple through time. The first step to physical prowess is to always train. No matter what the circumstances are, find some way to condition your body to keep your blood flowing. Too many people in our society live a sedentary lifestyle. Like we keep mentioning, it's estimated that sixty to seventy percent of American's are overweight. You can't build your mind or Spirit if your body feels like shit. You have to expand your lung capacity, stretch, flex your muscles, and get your heart rate up. Build your physical structure any way you can. There all types of exercises a person can do to keep the body in ideal physical shape.

If you have had previous sickness, disease, or ailments, consult with a physician before applying any ideas found in this book. We only offer observations from our practice of mind and body health. It may be wise to focus on three areas of physical

health: flexibility, endurance and strength.

Flexibility training consists of mainly stretching and keeping your body limber and loose. Make sure that you take time to stretch after waking up and before you do any other form of exercise. Warm your body up slightly with movement, then take the time to stretch slowly and in a relaxed state. Make sure that you breathe deeply while you are stretching, so your blood is oxygenated. Never try to force your Self to stretch beyond a point of pain. Also, never bounce when you are stretching. Yoga and martial arts movements help to refine stretching, making a person more balanced, fluid, and graceful.

Endurance training consists mostly of cardiovascular exercise (aerobic): Breakin', Beatboxin,' dancing, running, jumping rope, swimming, boxing, walking, and martial arts all could effectively give you an endurance workout. Please don't pattern your life off of T.V. and movies by making running from the police your workout. Find a better way to get oxygen to the brain! It's estimated that the brain is less than 3% of our bodies weight, but the brain uses up about 30% of the oxygen that enters the body. When you do cardiovascular exercise that keeps your heart pumping and your lungs expanding, you are increasing your brain activity by increasing oxygen in the brain.

Strength training consists of strengthening and toning muscles. Depending on what your specific needs are, you would want to choose the appropriate workout for your goals. Usually, if you want to gain muscle mass, you would want to lift heavier weights with more intense workouts. If you want to tone up, you would lift lighter weights with more repetitions and moderate workouts.

"I love a challenge! So even when something gets me mad or knocks me down, I can still come back and fight and smile."

-Lil' Zane

A Thug Workout

We know that sometimes life presents countless obstacles to our ideal levels of fitness. Sometimes it seems there is no way to get proper exercise due to lack of money, exercise equipment, pleasing environment, incarceration, constraints, or other limitations. Hence, the thug workout is always a backup so that an individual can get the minimum exercise the body needs. A thug workout is simply a workout (indoors or outdoors) that requires no accessories, special gym, or expansive space. It consists mainly of using whatever is available. If nothing is available, one's own body is sufficient. A thug workout can be done in the confines of a room, a cell, on a street corner, or in parks and nature.

Deep breathing, cultivation of "chi" energy, stretching, plyometrics, Pushups, Crunches, Pull-ups, and Shadowboxing are the staples of a thug workout. Deep breathing can be done while sitting or standing in one spot. Breaths should be taken in through the nostrils slowly, while allowing the stomach area to inflate while the diaphragm is compressed. Cultivation of "Chi" is a technique we martial artists use by squatting our legs in the horse stance to root ourselves in the ground and for stability. Arms are extended straight out, upon exhalation arms can be moved up, down, left, or right to help blood circulate and direct chi. Preferably, one should extend arms outward when exhaling, and draw arms toward the body when inhaling.

Plyometrics, such as jump rope hopping, skipping, running in place, high kicks, deep knee bends, side kick raises, leg raises, leap frogs, and lunges all work to strengthen the lower body region. Pushups strengthen the upper body including chest, shoulders, and triceps. Crunches strength the mid region of the body, mostly the abdomen. Pull-ups can be done from street posts or monkey bars in the park, and they strengthen the back and biceps. Shadowboxing allows one to work on mobility, distance, footwork, evasiveness, punches, feints, parries, and manipulations.

The best thug workouts include all of the above; with increased levels of endurance, always pushing beyond repetitions from previous workouts. Because there are usually no weights or recorded measurements, progress is measured largely by stamina and endurance. It is up to the individual to measure his or her personal fitness best, and continually make progress beyond that fitness level in each workout. Counting repetitions always helps, and is a good measurement of progress. Shadowboxing can be timed if possible. In shadowboxing, balance, power, precision and coordination should all be personally monitored by the individual. A proper thug workout can sometimes produce miraculous results of flexibility, strength, and endurance if maintained consistently.

"So live how you know how to live and direct your energies toward creating the person that you want to be, not trying to emulate others."

-Jeru the Damaja

A Warrior Workout

A warrior workout is a bit more focused, since warriors may have a little more freedom and space. Warriors are always focusing on precise results. These workouts contain all the elements of a thug workout, with a few additions, some of which may or may not include: free weights, space to run long distances, weapons, gym equipment, props such as belts, stop watches, punching bags, dummies, notebooks for records, and sparring equipment. In a warrior workout, the thug workout exercises are not emphasized as much. Those exercises serve more of a warm up role to prepare for a more comprehensive undertaking.

Warriors make sure to psychologically and physiologically condition ourselves for the unexpected through our training; therefore training is usually intense and Purposeful; as we seek to refine skill and eliminate weaknesses. Thugs may be more aggressive and have some level of skill refinement in Self-defense. Thugs may still be prone to offensive attack and unnecessary violence. On the other hand, warriors understand the ethics of Self-defense and seek to incorporate these ethics into their psychological conditioning. (See Diagram)

"Every army that goes to war uses a strategy. Every company that seeks something or is trying to get ahead, there's a strategy to everything. And it's all about working that plan, putting that strategy together."

-***Thirsti***n Howl III

The Ethics of Self-Defense

HONOR: The ultimate in ethical Self-defense. Neither attacking nor provoking an attack, the man defends himself in such a way, with such skill and control that the attacker is not killed, maybe not even seriously injured.
REVENGE: The man neither attacks nor provokes the other man to attack. When attacked, the man defends himself in a subjective manner and the other man is killed or severely injured.
FURY: The man has not attacked the other man but has provoked the other man to attack him. It could be through an insulting remark or vicious attitude. Either way, when the other man invites an attack, he is killed.
RAGE: A man without provocation and on his own initiative, attacks another man and kills him. Ethically this is the lowest of the four levels – unprovoked aggression in the form of a direct attack.

"I'm a survivor, I'm a warrior! This is my life,
I have no choice but to make it in this!"

-***F***at Joe

The Way of the Warrior – Learn Martial Arts

The way of the warrior provides individuals from all walks of life with a specific path of Self-mastery that allows one to balance mind, body, and soul; keeping the sphere of a person's cipher in equilibrium. There are various forms of styles, forms, and schools in which to learn from: Karate, Aikido, Ninjitsu, Jiu-Jitsu, Thai Boxing, Grappling, Kung Fu, Capoeira, Jeet Kune Do, Wrestling etc. Even as a part time hobby, martial arts training can be very rewarding for men, women, and children.

Often in our society, people are not used to simply moving their body. People get up from their box spring mattress, get a box of cereal from the box shaped cupboard, get milk out of the box refrigerator, heat up toast in their box toaster, put bacon in the box microwave, go jump in their box car, park in their boxed in parking space, go to their office building box, get on the elevator box, go sit down in their cubicle box, turn on the box computer, open up their email box, write in their box planner, and put paper in boxes all day! Not very many of these Neanderthals think outside the box!

The Earth is spherical, not a box!! Why are there so many man made creations in Western society in boxes? Think outside the box for an answer. Since the Earth can be likened to our mind, we must think spherically. With our sphericity as Hiphoppas the

box is only created out of our thought, within the Universe. This is why sometimes it's difficult for a man or woman living a Hiphop Driven life to fit into the status quo of a competitive greed driven society.

We don't want a 9-5 J-O-B so we can be pimped like hoes through the process of taxation!! It is difficult to put a spherical object inside a contained box. As an experiment, go try putting a basketball or soccer ball inside of a mail box. That's what it's like for an attuned Hiphoppa to try and assimilate within American society. The Hiphop Driven Life, is beyond most primitive left brain analytical boxes in American society like school, the work force, formal education, and technology. Hiphop is on another plane, far beyond what is perceived as advancement or technology by American society. Hiphop is a form of human technology engineered by Infinite Intelligence.

The only way Hiphoppas tend to fit in with the American way of life is when they deflate their mind, body, and soul. Just like deflating a basketball or soccer ball, twisting it out of proportion, may fit it inside the box. However, the basketball/soccer ball does not serve the same Purpose shut up inside a mailbox. What if the ball belonged to it's Creator's team, a Divine genius like Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls, or Pele of the Brazilian World Cup team, or the combined forces of any world championship team. These creators give basketballs and soccer balls value when they play the game. They still gotta have a ball in order to play. God gives Hiphoppas value when they live a Hiphop lifestyle outside of the box "matrix." Outside the box, we Hiphoppas give God something to play with.

For Hiphoppas, we are far better off outside the box serving our Creator and His team (different representations of God), the Divine genius that controls us: God, Infinite Intelligence, Supreme Being, Yahweh, Elohim, Jah, Ra, Oladumare (Olorun), Allah, Yahweh etc. These names mean different forces to different people, but they're all on the same team. "We're all in the same gang, it's the world (box) bank that got struck by two planes," as our Teacha KRS put so eloquently. We know that to deflate our selves, and allow technology to stuff us in a cubicle at a J-O-B, our Creator would not be able to dribble us through the Universe freely. He would not be able to practice with us. He would not be able to pass us to his teammates. He would not be able to use us to score His goals. He would never have a world championship team. Our Creator would be sitting on the Universal bench. Can you imagine God sitting on the bench? Now why the fuck would he wanna do that?

Think about it, it's common sense, if you had a basketball that belonged to you, and you laid it down at a local court or soccer field, but someone stole it and took it to another court or field, you would be heated right! What if you went to that court or field and saw that two hustlers deflated it and stuffed it into a box to use to hold the leg of their three card monte table, stopping it from wobbling! If you're training to be a professional athlete, they are interfering with your Divine Purpose. Wouldn't you be mad? You'd be furious. You would run, knock over their game, grab your ball, and go inflate it.

If practice meant everything to you, and you wanted to be an outstanding player, you would aggressively rescue your ball and inflate it. Likewise we as Attuned Hiphoppas must rescue our balls and the balls of our people (literally and symbolically). This is what God did with Hiphoppas in the United States of America in the South Bronx in the early 1970's. Our Creator was horrified at the way our precious human souls were being neglected in the slums of the South Bronx by the American government, upper class, and mainstream.

Ever since then, our Creator has been playing basketball and soccer with each Hiphoppa's individual cipher, inflating us with soul to balance our mind and body. Those of us who are brave enough to believe and be faithfully taken back by The Most High are the ones to be inflated with Spirit for regulation Game size. We are the ones fit to play in the NBA (National B-boy Association) of rhymes and the World Cup of lyrical flows, scoring goals for the true Ballers and Shot Callers the Divine Supreme Beings of Infinite Intelligence. Where do you think the rap Olympics came from?

Many of today's rappers like being inside the box, because they are scared, they feel safe and secure. When the creator is dribbling you and kicking you around to do his will, it's kind of uncomfortable!! It's difficult. It's not easy to say, "I Am Hiphop." It 's hard. Sometimes it even hurts. Rappers are afraid of the agony of being real and struggling through hardship by taking a stand on real issues that affect their communities every day. They allow record executives to deflate their Spirit and stuff them into wack albums, mainstream clubs like Dream in D.C., pussy poppin' videos, and fantasy film shoots. For Undaground Hiphoppas who keep their cipher strong and inflated with Spirit to regulation Game size, it's like poetry in motion.

Mind, body, and soul is all connected. When your Creator uses you to score a goal and you hear crowds of angels cheering along with the sound of gold and diamonds jinglin', cameras flashing, and stars pulsing off in the distance (showing true respect), you forget all about the pain. Rappers of today feel safe in their M.T.V., B.E.T., radio, and billboard boxes. It doesn't mean that a rapper who attains mainstream appreciation is no good. It means that if you have to attain mainstream success at the expense of your Truth, your reality, and your soul, it's wack. In fact, we wish it was the hard working, disciplined, driven, cerebral artists who were rewarded by society on billboards.

Society and pop culture as a whole, is still sick, so undaground artists don't shine as much in the money driven spotlight. Maybe Nightjohn will change that. Who knows. Artists who are not faithful to the Creator suffer from insecurity, doubt, and greed. When they are played out and dropped off of charts (emptied out of the box), they may or may not ever be inflated with Spirit again. They may either be tossed into the gutter, a prison box, or the street box, lost, confused, and eventually disintegrated into nothing and buried in a casket box! It is very problematic to fit into boxes; your Destiny is in the hands of men who suck out your

Spirit and pump your air into the tires of their sports cars, the rafts in their swimming pools, and air conditioners in their beach homes. Their money inflates. What about you playa? Are you inflating with effervescence or are you deflated? It is very liberating to keep your cipher strong, and have faith in the Earth, Sun, Moon, Stars. God is the only P.I.M.P. (Perpetual Icon of Mind Power) with airtight Game.

The importance of the sphere as a symbol in life is too important to be denied. One of Hiphop's elements, breakin', has its roots in the Brazilian martial art of Capoeira. Participants of Capoeira get in a circle called a Roda (pronounced Hh-ohda), to simultaneously practice dance like fighting moves to the tune of a Berimbau, hand claps, and chants like "Parana u e". The movements of each Capoeirista within the circle become spherical as bodies are three-dimensional. As each fighter gracefully functions and moves in unison with the other, their movement is in a total spherical realm. If captured on camera, it would look like the Earth spinning, while revolving around the Sun.

In Hiphop, music began on turntables. Records were spun. The Genesis was Divinely inspired through a 360° revolution in the hearts and minds of attuned Hiphoppas in the South Bronx. Now, Hiphop is on C.D.'s still spinning away in the cars, Discmans, stereos, and studios of the 21st century. It ain't neva gonna stop. As a martial artist, you simply have the ability to tune into Hiphop's Divine spherical meaning through the process of centralization.

Centralization means many things to many people. We will focus on centralization from the Aikido perspective; to give you a deeper insight to the power of martial arts and poetry in motion. In the Western way of thinking a man's center is considered to be his center of gravity. This is the spot where weight reaches equilibrium, concentration, and balance. This is the point of our body that allows us to stand upright and erect. From our center, our weight is channeled through our legs to keep us stabilized on the ground. This center is known as the: "*ha*ra" in Japanese; the "*seika no itten*" or "*seika tanden*" in Aikido. For the most part, any human beings center is the lower abdomen.

The focus in Aikido is to automatically harmonize and coordinate, man's mind and body, man's interconnectedness with other people, man's connection with his environment, man's connection with the Earth, and man's connection with the Universe. This centralization is supposed to be an unconscious act allowing the practioner to always be centralized, at any given moment.

In Hiphop, power and possibility is all about being centered. In Aikido, being centered provides a stable rooting to the Earth, and a oneness in unity, that allows a person to be in full control of reality, an attacker, any form of combat, or a violent event. It is essential for each individual to understand how to keep themselves centered in life. Staying centered is about remaining focused on the internal aspects of ones being, instead of getting caught up in the outer world, other people, the environment, setbacks, and obstacles. The Western way of life makes an emphasis on more, more, and more doing. In a mad rush to get more, do more, and be more, people lose track of why they are after goals. They forget their Divine Purpose.

The reason for attempting to achieve a goal is just as important, if not more important than achieving the goal. It's been said by Tony Robbins, that "as long as you have a big enough why, you can do anything." The only way to get the big enough why, is to learn how to center your mind, body, and soul in equilibrium. This centering is usually best done by sitting still in one place in meditation and/or silence. If one pays too much attention to the superficial, surface details of life, he or she loses touch with the core of their being, the center.

In Hiphop, poetry in motion is all about becoming a coordinated, congruent personality. This is why people who know their Purpose have such charming, charismatic, and attractive personalities. These people are in tune with the cosmos. In Aikido, it's all about responding to danger and threats with clarity and intensity. It's about maintaining an objective control around uncontrollable, events, circumstances and environments. Such circumstances are found all over inner cities in America where crime and chaos seem to be the rule instead of the exception. There's a certain detachment that comes with centralization. You sharpen your powers of awareness, evaluation, decision, and action. Master's like Bruce Lee are capable of making this process so smooth, that there is no gap between stimulus and response, between attack and defense.

Awareness and concentration are two effects of Divine centralization. Often in Aikido, this allows the martial artist to defend himself against four, five, or six attackers closing in upon him from every side. Physical, mental, emotional, and Spiritual threats can all be countered by a balanced cipher. Balance is about vertical alignment, posture, keeping a perpendicular axis of gravity; a fluid poise between rest and motion (poetry in motion).

We use our own center as the center of our attackers action as well. The center of a human being is not restricted in Aikido only to the individual. Any time a man attacks you, a police man attacks you, the government attacks you, and bill collectors attack you; they have lost their point of independence and balance by the very irrationality of that act. Your goal is to substitute your own center in an attempt to get the situation back to normal. The attacker attacks, you evade, or go with the flow of that momentum. He plunges into the vacuum, you lead and guide him back around your center and neutralize his attack. This a fluid way to defend one's mind, body, and soul. Hiphop sphericity is poetry in motion; body, mind, and soul.

"It's hard to make the statement that being me is enough."

-Baha madia

Stay Thorough - Study Ya Anatomy

Take a look in the mirror. Do you like what you see? Who are you? Where are you? Your body image and awareness play an important role in your Self-esteem, Self-awareness, and Self-image. People who are highly kinesthetic, have a natural ability to listen to their body, and understand messages that their body is telling them. Many people observe their body closely. Bayo knows a woman so in tune with her body, that she felt comfortable sitting in front of the mirror nude. While alone, she spread her legs wide open and, drew her legs and female anatomy with a marker. He walked into her room one time and saw this drawing on the wall in her room. She had written the words from one of Bayo's more feminist conscious poems along the curves of her body on the drawing. Isn't that daring and fearless? That's stayin' thorough and studying anatomy! This is a true story. Now, you don't have to be that brave, but don't be afraid to get to know your body. If you can't live in your own skin, you cannot live life and win.

Don't be afraid to stand in front of the mirror with your clothes off and carefully examine your body. Sometimes taking a good look at your Self for several minutes will either shock the hell out of you or inspire you to treat your body even better. If you don't like your physical shape, maybe you can finally make changes for the better. There is always room for growth. Your body is a temple. Attempt to draw your body. You may not be the best artist, but make an effort. Think about areas in your body where you have tension, pain, or stress. Maybe you can even get markers to color in areas where you feel the most stress. This is kind of like making a diagram of your own unique body to identify ways to heal yourself. The results can be rewarding.

"A lot of people put sex as the first priority in they life. I mean, that's the worst thing that you can ever do…But to me, right now sex is not a priority. Bein' successful, bein' a good man, bein' a good fiancé, bein' a good father is what's important to me."

-Luther "Luke" Campbell

The Sweetest Taboo - Overstand Human Sexuality

If we are 360° in our sphericity of mind, body, and soul. The unification of man and woman is 360° + 360°, which equals 720°, now the sphere of life is rotating. This is poetry in sexual motion. The typical old derogatory slang for sex might be a variety of terms, male or female: bust out, bust a nut, bend, beatin', beatin' cakes, bagged, around the world, bag, bangin' boots, bangin', backshots, ball, get ya groove on, blazin', bone, booty call, between the sheets, crushin', cake-mixing, half on a baby, hittin' skins, intercourse, love thumpin', making love, nasty, dirty, deep sea divin', doggystyle, fuckin, funk workouts, get with you, get down, heaven, hit, in the buck, in the cut, knockin' boots, hoein, get busy, let's get it on, mo' betta, mind sex, nookie, pattin' pies, peaches n cream, peacocking, pussy poppin', pink cookies in a plastic bag getting crushed by buildings (LL Cool J); layin pipe, quickie, rock, rock n roll, rockin' the boat, rough ridin', screwin', seafood lovin', servin', slammin', slice it up, slay, slap sessions, slobbin' knobs, stick shift, tap that, that thing, tear down walls, throw down, wax, wife, wild thing.

As Nightjohn, we have created our own unique sex language and slang with a more uplifting twist; here are just a few terms we use from our own lexicon and other more meaningful multidimensional terms that have been used before: the sweetest taboo, kundalini, soulful pleasing, exchanging essence, connecting deeply, short and sweet, radiate, gift givin', getting deep, combinin' forces, kama sutra, tantra, soul of sex, pleasures, sunrise, sunset, neutralizing, cloud 9, bliss, divinity, Spirit mixing, paradise, moonlight, neon glow, body lingo, planting flowers, yin and yang, vibin', eroticism, life force flow, spinnin' spheres, sphericity, cosmic fire, flying free, pink blankets, tinglin', reflectin' eyes, soothing stress, cord of light, lovedrops, etc.

"When you love people, you don't wanna let them go, because you love them. It's hard to let them go – family members, boyfriends, girlfriends – but you just gotta, because if you keep them around, they'll drain you and try to hold you back."

-Mary J. Blige

One way or another, part of poetry in motion is having Self-respect for your mind, body, and soul. There is an art to having Self-respect. Sexual drive, emotion, and chemistry is part of genius. We don't neglect the fact that the Creator's urge to reproduce can be a powerful bodily motivator in life. Sex can be a very controversial topic. Some belief systems consider sex to be dirty, while other belief systems consider sex to be the key to liberation (tantra, kama sutra etc.) Some consider pre-marital sex to be wrong, others do not. One way or another, when you thoroughly overstand your own body, anatomy, and physiology, to connect with a member of the opposite sex requires Self-respect and respect for the other person's anatomy and physiology.

Without the proper respect, sex can indeed be a source of confusion and drama. We cannot tell people how to approach sexuality by declaring it right or wrong in any fashion or form. That is up to an individual's belief system and Creator. We can, however, add our own unique insight to the topic of sex, which is such a powerful force in the media world of our society, right along side, violence, drugs, religion, and money.

First of all, we must live our sex lives with a philosophy or overview. A rewarding sex life is an important part of being a well balanced human being. It is important to have an overall knowledge base about sex. Without quality healthy sex in a relationship it becomes about fifty percent of the cause towards breakups and divorce, as stated by Dr. Phil. Your philosophy about sex is everything you know about sex. Learn more. What is the history of sex in America?

In America, sex is very confusing. On one hand sex is viewed as puritanical and other hand it is viewed as hedonistic. America has a sick perverted culture when it comes to sexual intelligence and integrity. We must understand that there are many points of view. It is necessary for us to be tolerant of each other's sexual tendencies. For a lot of people, sex has just become another quick escape from a miserable existence. People have cheapened their sexuality to a type of quick fix pleasure. Don't lower your standards sexually. You should seek complete mind blowing sex in mind, body, and soul. If there is no respect and connection with the other person's mind and soul, arousal of your bodies will only lead to emptiness and frustration.

Our philosophy is that the essence of sharing sex with a partner is about allowing each person to unlock different emotions that are found in each others bodies. Who is this soul that you are connecting with? Why is this soul's energy easily meshing with your soul's energy? How does your Divine Purpose match your partner's Divine Purpose? Where are all the fantasies, desires, and dreams hidden in this person? Learn to cultivate a sense of comfort and stability around this person first. The only way to do so is to take time to know someone, feel what they feel, and see the world through their eyes. We are all vulnerable. Sometimes the most erotic intimate moments are about letting your guard down for the greater good of sharing real moments with a person you are attracted to. If a partner doesn't want sex every bit as much as you, go home and practice patience. Communication is relation. If you need to convince someone to have sex with you, then it is the wrong timing, the wrong individual, and the wrong location. How about some mind sex before you take your clothes off?

"You've got to be able to deal with women
on many different levels. If you are introduced to them
physically before you are introduced to their ideas,
sometimes you create problems for yourself."

-***Stic.M***an of Dead Prez

Some people strive for absolute abstinence and celibacy. Pursuing such an aim, allows an individual to increase consciousness and rational thinking. It's too bad that religions created by man have forced harsh rules on people about being celibate until married, maintaining surreal virginity, and never masturbating. Humans will always be humans. To abstain from sex is clearly a personal choice. There may be some benefits to sexual moderation and complete celibacy for a while. Maybe one or more years of celibacy can give you a whole fresh outlook on life. Sometimes being intimate with ourselves and knowing ourselves is the best foundation for our sexual philosophy. Finding bliss in your simple daily existence is pure pleasure. Being happy about your life's Purpose is exciting. Living to serve others brings you joy a sexual partner may never be able to match.

For those who choose to be celibate there is always a legitimate reason. We must all begin to move beyond the idea that it is right or wrong. The only time that right or wrong becomes a factor is when you abuse God given gifts. Celibacy is merely a choice among many, in how we approach our sexuality. For some people it may work wonders, for others it may not. It is sad that so many so called Spiritual leaders, play with the emotions of their followers by calling them sinners for not abstaining from sex. Spiritual leaders need more tolerance, more warmth, compassion, and a sense of humor. All the judging, preaching, and chastising has got to go. If this is done at your place of worship, you may want to consider taking your Spirit and your sexuality elsewhere.

Some individuals strive to use sex to channel energy to assist with Divine creation or manifesting the best of themselves in the world. By using sex as a ritual, visualization, and channeling energy, they find sex to be a source of power. It's probably best to do such practices in a monogamous relationship. Promiscuity is really not a wise approach. There are many diseases that are life threatening. For men, it is difficult to live life as a "player" and/or "Pimp" when your priorities are out of alignment. For women, why consider yourself a "Bitch" or a "ho" when there may be other sane options for you. If you feel that sex gives you some type of sexual power and helps you do good in the world, do your thing. The chances are that many people simply use sex as an escape from the harsh realities of life.

Balance is key. Whatever sexual lifestyle you choose, do not allow sex to control you, limit you, or oppress you. Do no let corporate advertisers use your lust for sex against you to manipulate you into buying beer, guns, tobacco products, C.D.'s, D.V.D's, cars, or homes. Sex between a man and woman is the most sacred beautiful and intriguing experience in the world. Just

because a few greedy capitalists got a hold of this concept and exploited it does not mean you have to follow along.

Do not let the hypocrisy of American culture confuse you. Sit down and draw the boundaries for your sex life. Analyze the consequences of certain actions in your sex life. If something doesn't benefit you in the long run, it's probably wise not to indulge in it. Knowing your Self frees you up to be flexible about your sex life. A person should never have to sum up his or her sex life in one blanket label like "celibate," "Virgin", "slut," or "Player" There may never be one word for your sexuality.

Sexuality is not so simple. In fact, many of the words used to describe sex in America, are also simultaneously used to insult people. Isn't that disempowering? Remember, the lies are what is confusing. The Truth is simple: God created man and woman, and sex is the attracting force between the two. It feels good, its good for both partners, and when done with respect and communication, can lead to other great things like pleasure, love, relationship, intimacy, fulfillment, reproduction. Sexuality serves the greater good through the creation of a family. The Truth shall set you free. Below are a few new ideas and beliefs about sex that you may have never thought of. These empowering thoughts may be more easily applied than the dogma you have most likely been exposed to by more traditional institutions:

New Empowering Beliefs About Sex

Sex is neither Positive or Negative, sex is neutral
Sexuality is an ever changing process and is multidimensional.
Tantra is for passionate people.
Does God or the Goddess have orgasms?
Life is not about having more orgasms, but being orgasmic in every moment.
Good sex is good for you.
There is no more profound potent, or potentially Spiritual conduit for the expression of our desire than sex.
Sex provokes a higher consciousness.
Human sexuality is one key to our Spiritual development.
A lover's kiss or sensual caress contains Divine sparks of energy.
Sex is the Song of All Songs.

"Ya'll niggas is glorifying chains and bitches,
but my son is the most important thing to me."

- ***X***zibit

Stay Fly - Practice Style, Poise, & Physical Balance

They say that clothes can make the man or woman. Not for us, not as much as how you move. The way you move in your clothes mean everything. Most communication is non-verbal through body language. Nothing demonstrates poetry in motion more than an individual with an upright posture, head up, and shoulders back. When you slump and slouch around, you give the impression that you are timid, weak., and vulnerable. A lot of people crawl around in life, wondering why they are depressed, sad, and miserable. They wonder why people always take advantage of them. Much of it comes from the simple way they use their body. Emotional energy comes from moving the body in positive uplifting ways.

Confidence comes from the act of being confident. Confidence is in physiology and biochemistry. All you have to do is carry your body with your chin up, shoulders back and face the world. Move with authority. You don't have to wait for someone to approve of you to be confident. You don't have to be competent in a skill, before you can be confident. Be confident through belief and faith in your Creator. Be confident through the way that you display poise and grace in any situation. Your confidence that you can and will learn the right way to do something is more important than getting it right the first time.

You don't need the best clothes (gear), to be confident about yourself. You don't need the best rims to be confident. You don't have to be muscular like Hercules to be confident. You don't have to carry a ratchet to be confident. Sometimes you have to just be confident.

If you are confident in yourself, you can make anything look good. If you know who you are at the deepest level, you can make your old jeans, raggedy shirt, and scuffed up shoes look fly. Staying fresh and clean is just that, having confidence in your ability to make decisions and take action; and not relying on the material world, external world, or social approval.

When you do have the opportunity to have nice clothes, stay dipped in the finest clothes for you. Don't wear a style of clothes just because some other brothas and sistas all wear the same style. Street fashion is about originality, creativity, and flamboyance. Create your own style. How many pinwheel hats can a nicca wear? How many pairs of air force ones is enough, until people stop following the bandwagon? How many times are you going to wear jerseys?

A lot of times it's funny when dudes where jerseys of other basketball players. Have you asked yourself, "Is Dwayne Wade, Kobe Bryant, or LeBron James your favorite jersey? How the fuck do you make that selection in the store? You can do

that as a boy, but sometimes as a man, it's like "When have these athletes sent me my endorsement checks?!?" These athletes make millions, and hard workin' people go into debt buying their clothes. Pay me nicca, if I'm gonna walk around advertising you on my muthafuckin' back. All these kids in inner city America buy shoes and jerseys of pros. When is every black athlete and entertainer going to get together once and for all to use the money they make off of people in poverty, to help take people out of poverty? It's mostly elitist owned corporations that sell all the pinwheel hats, jerseys, and sneakers. We need more Hiphop owned outfitting "for us by us" operated fashion businesses to keep money cycled back into the Hiphop community. Nevetheless, a Hiphop Driven Life is one where, as an individual, you walk and talk like a God and Goddess, you dress like a King or Queen, and you stay fresh like a Prince and Princess.

"Modesty and moderation, that's what's important."

-Tela

Hands of Buttah - Practice Ambidexterity

Are you good with both hands and both feet. If you an balance the brain between left and right brain thinking, learn to balance the body between left and right side usage. The right brain hemisphere controls the left side of the body. The left-brain hemisphere controls the right side of the body. In our eyes, it's the next level of completeness. Do you play a sport? If you play a sport, you must be able to use your left and right feet or hands. In soccer, Pele was a master with both feet, so he could dominate the playing field and dribble circles around people. Likewise, Michael Jordan mastered the use of both his left and right hand shot. The possibilities of him making a shot from anywhere are on the court became unpredictable.

Whenever you can, try and switch hands to use your non-dominant hand just for fun. If you are left handed, try brushing your teeth with your right hand. If you are right handed, try writing with your left hand. Can you alternate your left and right eyes blinking back and forth? Some people can, some people can't. Experiment by writing rhymes or poetry with your non-dominant hand. You might get some strange and exciting new discoveries. Remember, the power of the brain is Infinite. Try writing with both your left and right hands at the same time. Try drawing with both hands at the same time. Try bombin' or taggin' using your non-dominant hand, then doing it with both hands at the same time. You can do this anywhere, a chalkboard, a blank wall. Learn to type correctly without looking. You never know, it may help you write a book like us. The possibilities are endless.

Never limit the use of your brain and your hands. Leonardo Da Vinci was capable of mirror writing. He would literally write from right to left using a mirror. Learn to juggle. Bayo taught himself to juggle a while back. He said it was hard at first, but then he learned the motion with two balls. He says its all in the motion. If you throw up two balls and pretend like it's three, you get the motion down. Then, when you try with three balls, you can keep them all in rotation:

1. Take one ball and toss it back and forth, from hand to hand, in a gentle arc just above your head.
2. Take two balls, one in each hand. Toss the ball in your right hand just as you did with one ball; when it reaches it's high point, toss the ball in your left hand in exactly the same manner. Focus on smooth easy throws. Let both balls drop.
3. Same as step 2, only this time catch the first toss. Let the second one drop.
4. Same as step 2, only this time catch them both.
5. Now you are ready to try three balls. Take two balls in one hand and one in the other. Toss the front ball in the hand that has two. When it reaches its high point, throw the single ball in your other hand. When it reaches its high point, throw the remaining ball. Let them all drop!
6. Same as step 5., only this time catch the first toss.
7. Same as step 5, only this time catch the first two tosses. If you catch he first two balls and remember to throw the third, you will notice that there is only one ball remaining in the air, and you can already do one ball. Catch the third ball and you will experience your first juggle. It's like whoa!

We might be able to juggle, but we'll be damned if we are some clown ass minstrel monkey see monkey do niccas. This ain't the circus. Learning to juggle builds brain synapses and builds on ambidexterity. Life in America itself is a juggling act any damn way. Stay sharp.

"I spent so many days in my room – years and years of sorting out my problems conditioned me. So that when things happen, I don't care how good or bad it is, I can adapt to it."

- Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes of TLC (R.I.P.)

Peep The Game - Everyone is an Athlete

No matter who you are, or what your position is in life, you must think of yourself as an athlete. Don't lie to yourself and say that you don't need to be in ideal physical shape. You always need to be in peak. physical condition, whether you work in a cubicle, as a DJ, or for a professional football team. In order for you to experience the fullest feelings and experiences in life, you must stay physically fit. Because work is the primary objective for most people's lives in America, health and fitness always gets pushed to the backburner. For all you breakers, here is a quote from Nestor Capoeira's little Capoeira book that ads poetic justice to our idea that everyone is an athlete:

> ***"Capoeira can be a tool in the First World, a tool against the forces that tend to turn people into robots that do not think, do not wish, do not have any fantasies, ideals, imagination or creativity; a tool against a civilization that increasingly says one simply has to work and then go home and sit in front of a TV with a can of beer in hand, like a pig being fattened for the slaughterhouse."***
> --Nestor Capoeira, Little Capoeira Book

Ride the Beat – Treat Your Body A Temple

Learn the rhythms of your own body. Eat ya Wheaties, get enough sleep. Drink plenty of water. Be good to your body. One way to purify your temple is to go on a cleanse. A cleanse is the ultimate treat to your Divine body. As a genius, you will need to keep your body in optimum performance for all the demand will stir up for your skills, talents, and gifts. At times, you may push your body to the limit because of your fast paced Hiphop lifestyle. Whether you want to have more energy, heal yourself, or purify yourself after eating lots of toxic food, a cleanse will make all the difference in the world. An average cleanse lasts 3-10 days. Here's an example of a typical cleanse:

7:00 a.m.: One liter pure H2O w/ pH drops (w/lemon or lime juice)
7:30 a.m.: colloidal supplements
8:00 a.m.: juiced greens and capsule supplements
9-12 p.m.: 1.5 liters pure H2O w/concentrated green powder and pH drops
12:30 p.m.: colloidal supplements
1:00 p.m.: raw soup or juiced greens and capsule supplements
2-5 p.m.: 1.5 liters pure water with concentrated green powder and pH drops
5:30 p.m.: colloidal supplements
6:00 p.m.: soup or juiced greens and capsule supplements
7-9p.m.: pure water with pH drops as desired (with lemon or lime juice)

It is recommended that you cleanse if you are going to make any drastic progress in your energy and vibrancy. Always consult your physician first if you have any special health issues. A cleanse can have a laxative effect as you are flushing toxins out of your body. The first few days of the cleanse you may actually feel worse as your body adjusts, then around the 3-4th day you'll feel normal, most likely with minimal hunger. It is best to do a cleanse at home or when you don't have a lot of things to do and places to go. Also, stay near a bathroom to relieve your bladder.

Some people think not eating meat is strange, drinking dark green swamp water is insane; becoming a vegan, or eating alkaline foods is extreme. For us stuffing oneself with hormone pumped beef, kool-aid with a pound of sugar, flour, toxic fast food and microwave meals is extreme physical abuse. We gotta make it cool to be up in the ghetto sippin' on healthy green drinks. Remember, we are not making rules, we clarifying Universal principles so that individuals see what's possible in a Hiphop Driven Life. Sometimes in our society, we have been so conditioned to be in the box, that we are afraid to make changes and ultimately progress. You don't have to change overnight. Make one change, then two, then three, and the rest is history.

Principle 7

Connect The Dots:
When It All Makes Sense

"The circle, on the other hand, represents totality. Everything within the circle is one thing, which is encircled, enframed. That would be the spatial aspect. But the temporal aspect of the circle is that you leave, go somewhere, and always come back.
God is the Alpha ? and the Omega ***? ,***
the source and the end.
The circle suggests immediately a completed totality, whether in time or in space."

-***Jose***ph Campbell

Everything is Everything. People in our society categorize and isolate subjects too much. People look for the differences instead of the connections. There is definitely a connection in all subjects and objects. We consistently work on all areas our lives, mental, physical, Spiritual, emotional, relationships, and financial. When we think of different subjects in our mind, we expand them to broader overstanding. Our spherical ciphers are not limited. We combine different elements of different subjects. In other words, our minds are open and connect many relationships. Some people's minds are closed. We can tell, we meet with close minded resistance everyday. Everything has an original knowledge base. There is a connection from the same knowledge base to create another basis of understanding. In our own Divine Purpose and genius, that same path of information trailed off into the Hiphop overstanding, the Awareness, rather than back into the educational systems we were brought up in.

We're out here in the vast awareness of pure potentiality. We're jungle boys who transformed ourselves into warrior men. There was an already discovered understanding of some sort throughout the history of the world. Even the Bible refers to keeping your head up, the same way Tupac talked about it. Even back in the ancient days, the Bible indicates similar Universal principles. So when we hear wisdom from Tupac that may have been similar to wisdom from Jesus, we listen and we absorb. The proof within that Universal Truth has to remain in one main pool of thought and there are many different approaches to it. One approach may be through an educational system and another could be Self-education.

Self-Education is like a Geyser and an education system is like a pitcher. Those of us who are Self-educated love the connection in all things. We have a childlike wonder and play connect the dots all day. So many people sit in schools, universities, and jobs they hate trying to separate, dissect, and distinguish knowledge. A lot of people aren't happy. We're the type to lay down in the park listening to Outkast and looking at the clouds. We let our curiosity, thoughts, questions, and wisdom lead us. As a result, our connections surprise and amaze us. We only keep searching because it's so fun. We love everyday of life. Such connections brings us to an overstanding and sight that allows us to transform subjects and objects in an attempt to re-interpret our reality. By making connections with things, we have an infinite stream of potential, whereas a limited, narrow contained version of knowledge has a finite contained view of the world.

In the educational system, the student is contained, so they can only spit it back in a specific way that will fit the society and how the student is expected to be trained or socialized. In other words, students are forcefully pushed by law to understand this

secluded amount of information away from the vast infinite sea of information, the place where we chill each and every day. People really are trained, because the schools shut off certain values by containing those particular values in a certain curriculum, syllabus, certain classes, and certain courses of study.

Life itself is like walking through a tunnel of doors that can be open or closed. In formal education, they keep certain doors closed. By the time you sneak around and look for a key, it's on to more homework, another worksheet, and more tests. Your curiosity wanted to open that door and see what's in there, but you were stopped by an outside force, a totalitarian teacher. If you are depending on someone to open the doors to your intelligence, you are a slave. If you are opening every door you can on your own drive and curiosity, you are living a Hiphop Driven Life; therefore moving toward Divine Purpose, genius, and liberation.

Neva put the 2 before the 1 - Connect All Things

No-thingness. Nothingness. What is nothingness? It's a place with no things right? The beginning is the end. Everything comes from everything and returns to everything. Birth is dying. Life is death. The question is the answer. What truly is the meaning of life? For Africans and Hiphoppas, life means something quite different than traditional Westerners. For us, our brilliance cannot coexist within the traditional Western institutions, because these institutions tend to differentiate, dissect, break apart, analyze, and critique. Many African's in America have Yoruba ancestry in West Africa. Let's turn to our roots for a moment to think about our true ability to make our connection in all things. On page **11** *(eleven, a # for Spiritual mastership)* in the Metu Neter Vol. 1, by Ra Un Nefer Amen. Let's refer to the words quoted by Janheinz Jahn, of a Yoruba writer; Adebayo Adesanya who wrote:

"This is not simply a coherence of fact and faith, nor of reason and traditional beliefs, nor of reason and contingent facts, but a coherence of compatibility among all disciplines. A medical theory, e.g., which contradicted a theological conclusion was rejected as absurd and vice versa. This demand of mutual compatibility among ALL disciplines considered as a system was the main weapon of Yoruba thinking. God might be banished from Greek thought without any harm being done to the logical architecture of it, but this cannot be done in the case of the Yoruba. In medieval thought, science could be dismissed at pleasure, but this is impossible in the case of a Yoruba thought, since faith and reason are mutually dependent. In modern times, God even has no place in scientific thinking. This was impossible to the Yoruba."

The Hiphop Driven Life is focused upon synthetical, holistic, and congretative connections of motivation among people, cultures, music, art, religion, and Spirituality. By pursuing such a life, an individual is bound to discover a Divine Purpose. In the African mentality, genius and Divine Purpose is released from within a person. The only way for a person to tap into such a power is to make connections in life. It is when we see the relationship among all things that we begin to realize the oneness and unity of our inner Self.

Your life is supposed to be a beautifully woven tapestry. Your life is not supposed to be a B line from elementary school, to middle school, to high school, to college, to job, to death. More people need to allow themselves to open up and explore possibility in the outer world, so they can uncover the mystery of the inner world. For us, when we make a brand new connection, it's like life starts all over again. We build upon where we were mentally and expand. We are able to link ideas and see the world from a new paradigm, and a new light.

Do you remember how to connect the dots like when you were a child? Do you remember those books with all the dots and numbers in them? Each dot is assigned a number. When you go from number to number connecting the dots with a pen or pencil, you slowly but surely draw lines that begin to form a picture. For kids, the picture might have been an animal, an object, or a character. The mystery is seeing what picture will emerge after you connect the dots. The outcome is a surprise.

In life, when we learn to design our life based on a clear vision, a Divine Purpose, and goals, we are basically numbering all the dots in our life. We are at least acknowledging the possibility of getting all we want in life. When you take that first small step toward discovery or a journey of a thousand miles, you connect 1 to 2. It may not seem like a lot, but that first connection is important. Without it, you cannot connect from 2 to 3 and 3 to 4. You cannot skip around. If you miss the connection within a fundamental area, you will not see the whole picture. If you were a child with a connect the dots page in a book, what would you get if you went from 32 to 31 to 5 to 7 to 8? You probably wouldn't get a picture, you'd get a bunch of lines crisscrossing in chaos.

If you approach life goals without first discovering why you want a particular goal in life, you are putting the 2 before the 1. The outcome will not be the picture you desire. We like to think that our Creator has already laid down the dots in our life in a unique random sequence for each person. When a person begins tapping into his or her inner desires, they begin making connections in the Universe that will fulfill the Creator's design for his or her life. Understanding the reason for taking an approach in life is very important. Your reasons for needing, love, money, security, or fame are more important than wanting these things. When you find your reason, your Divine Purpose, you have connected the 1 before the 2. Now you look for the 3 and 4.

If you stop halfway, your picture is unfulfilled. Sometimes you may not even see the beauty of your picture until you get to

the very last dot in your Creator's design for your life. This is why faith, patience, discipline, and belief is so important. Keep making connections in all things, every single day in your life. Your Creator may surprise you with a much different picture than you imagined, or it may be exactly what you imagined. We never know. Life is a mystery.

"My parents were really strict when it came to education, so I had to go to school; I had to go to college, and I really appreciate that. It took awhile before I got put on in the rap game, so I had to work as a professional illustrator before I got my chance to shine. I didn't have to resort to hustlin' drugs on the street. This was because I had a solid educational background. With both street knowledge and education from schooling, you can adapt to any situation.

-***Mr. Booka-T*** of Spooks

Do the Math - Note Things You Observe That Overlap

When you see the similarities between anything, write down your discoveries. Do the math. Two plus two equals four. If you never knew that, would you know that two times two equals four? There is a connection between addition and multiplication, so you can say, well "Two 2's give me 4. If I have two doubled I have 4." You do the math. All sorts of things overlap in life. We will not go into detail as most of this book involves overlapping ideas, concepts, theories, and experiences. Everything is happening at once in the Great Event, so it all overlaps. When you are able to consistently see where things overlap and how all things are connected you begin seeing the greatest joy and bliss.

Nature is probably the best place to start exploring the overlap of all things. In nature, everything occurs in cycles. Different ecosystems, habitats, and environments. There is a food chain. Likewise in modern society, there are unified systems that play into one another without fail. If there was no customers, there would be no employees, if there were no employees, there would be no managers, if there were no managers there would be no C.E.O. Society and civilization is based on the interconnectedness of people.

The greatest part of the United States is that you do not have to do what you do not want to do. You can pay someone else to do what they specialize in. If they have chosen a skill, trade, or profession that is in line with their Divine Purpose, they probably do what they do very well. In this case, it's a pleasure to do business with people who are not out of balance. We all have a choice to do what we really love to do, but most people get caught up and blinded by distractions and hoopla that they end up doing what they have to do.

When you realize how connected all people are, it gives you faith because you see that no matter what you do, someone will always choose something else for themselves. Everybody has a position to play. Be wise enough to pick your position and not have another person pick your position for you.

"Being a Big Willie is not about the car you drive.
For me, the ultimate Willie measuring stick is intellect."

-***Will*** Smith

Break It Down - Record Epiphanies & Discoveries

Write down everything. Whenever you make a new discovery (you will make millions in a lifetime), write it down, so you remember and you can build off of it. When you look back at all the discoveries you've made, you can make big connections. If you have nothing to look back at, you may lose inspiration and forget about key connections you made in your life; connections that could have the power to take you beyond your current level of thinking.

If you maintain a journal, diary, or book of rhymes, you'll have a place to place thoughts, ideas, discoveries, doodles, illustrations, and brainstorming. You have to dump your mind out on something that you can save so you can allow it to fill up with more of your own unique ideas again. You may even want to break down what you discover using a still camera, tape recorder, video camera, or recording studio. The important point is that your life is always worth recording. Sometimes it's easier to measure your progress, if you have some comparison from the past.

Ideas will hit you at the strangest times. You may be running, eating, clubbing, emceeing, sexing, or blinking. No matter what,

your mind is always working. Ideas will race to your mind (if it's active), and you'll want to capture those epiphanies and discoveries. An epiphany is like a mind orgasm. When you figure something out that has tremendous meaning in your life, and could affect the way you see your entire life, it's like your mind rushes with ideas and new thoughts, you have a mind orgasm. Before long, if you continue on the same path, you'll have continual multiple mind orgasms every single day. You'll be a "thought-phomaniac." That's something you might want to keep indulging in!

"I wish I would have stayed in school. I did a bid instead. I think no matter how you get an education, it's important that you get it. I went to jail, dropped out of school, but while in jail I got both my GED and thirty college credits."

*-Capone of Ca*pone-N-Noreaga

Been Bamboozled!? - One Day It'll All Make Sense

We remember when Common's album cover gave us all hope: "One Day It'll All Make Sense." When we are in a stage of darkness in our lives, a state of confusion with very few connections made in our mind, nothing makes sense. We may have problems, pains, hurts, regrets, and straight up depression. Just remember that one day it will all make sense. If you do not make an effort to learn and grow, nothing will ever make sense, and you'll be trapped in darkness forever. The efforts you take toward progress and improvement is what separates the chosen few from the deaf, dumb, and blind masses. If you have been reading this book, Infinite Intelligence is guiding you and watching over you. It will make sense one day. Leaders are readers. Read, read, and read some more. Listen to audio books, watch videos, make connections, and one day it'll all make sense.

You've been bamboozled! You may have thought life in America was all about you getting a wonderful degree, getting a safe, secure, stable job with consistent money, getting a big house, buying a nice car, getting married, and having four kids. If so, you've been bamboozled! If that's not the vision you created from your own imagination, you've been bamboozled. Snap out of it and work toward the vision you want in your life. It may not happen instantly, but you will get everything you want in life. If you don't want it, you won't get it. If you ask life for a dollar, life will give you a dollar. Life is what YOU make it. What YOU see is what YOU get. Never forget that.

When will it all make sense? When do you want it to make sense? How dedicated and committed are you to having it all make sense? How many books are you willing to read in a week? How many people are you willing to meet in a week? How many places are you willing to travel in a week? Your discoveries will occur as fast or as slow as you want them to take. So many people want things to happen fast, but because of all the distractions in life, nothing ever happens fast. Then they think that it can't happen fast anyway, so many stop trying. If you focus 100% on something, and you have no distractions, you can master that skill, figure out the conspiracies, learn the business, or crack the code to the matrix. It's all about your heart, discipline, and intense work ethic.

In it's essence, The Hiphop Driven Life is the pinnacle of such a work ethic. Motivation is cool. Pump up is cool. Excitement is cool. Pipe dreams are cool. However, drive is hot! A lot of people talk shit, but not a lot of people do the shit they say they're gonna do. We decided to write a book, so we wrote it. A Hiphop Driven Life is about saying what you think, and doing what you say. This is what makes you truly happy, not cars, clothes, and buying the bar out. We are pulled by our dreams, visions, Divine Purpose and goals. We don't have to push ourselves. The power of Hiphop pulls us towards greatness. We do what we love everyday.

We call a Hiphop Lifestyle "Driven" because there is an engine running in our bellies with a hot blue flame burning in our hearts and flames spewing out of our eyes to burn up ignorance and master the Universe and everything in it. We can't stop. We don't know how to stop. We couldn't stop if we wanted to. We ain't never gonna stop. We've come down with a case of P. Diddyism. Anytime elitists takeout a black man who is a powerful -a catalyst for change (a messiah for the Africans), guide for the oppressed, teacher for the so-called poverty stricken, or leaders for the Hiphop world- best believe, another one will rise up! We like Bebe's kids. "We don't die, we multiply!!" Just like KRS, our mind is racing like …..vroom …..vrrrroom ….vrroooooom!! Like Chuck D, it takes a nation of millions to hold us back. We got it made like Special Ed. We followed the leaders like Rakim. We goin' until the end of time like Tupac (R.I.P.). We gonna have life after death like Biggie. It's a daily operation like Gangstarr. We are masterminds like Nas. We got 9 lives like AZ. We Africans like Dead Prez. We are the reflection eternal like Talib Kweli. We resurrect like Common. We fear not of man like Mos Def. We are prophets that can't be stopped like Jeru the Damaja. We are extraterrestrial like Outkast We got adrenaline like the Roots. We got beats rhymes and life like A Tribe Called Quest. We in every ghetto, every city like Lauryn Hill. It's no limit to us like Master P. We lose ourselves in the music like Eminem. We supalyrical like Big Pun (R.I.P.). Ain't no stopping a Hiphop Driven Life. They can only hope to contain us! We got the drive to go get it!

"I believe that education is very important, but there are different types of education. Of course, there's public schools, secondary schools, and college; but then there's also street knowledge, which I feel is very important as well, because of the way I grew up. I grew up poor and

in the ghetto. Street knowledge helped me to survive."

*-**Mr. Boo**ka-T of Spooks*

You Better Work Smart - 1 Day Is 2-Day!

Why can't today, as you read this book, be the day that it all makes sense? One day it'll all make sense, but today is 2 -day. If today is 2-day, we have to assume we started on One day, then that means it all made sense yesterday which was one day, so it damn sho' better make sense 2-day. Does that make sense today? It ain't no half steppin in a Hiphop Driven Life. You better work with us, otherwise you'll be working against us (read Luke11:23). Either you in it, or you in the muthafuckin way! We breakin some chains today, not one day!! We are freeing the minds of people so they awaken their Divine Purpose and genius within. We can hear the chain links poppin' off from around your skull already! Break out of mental slavery. A mental awakening is a beautiful event. There's so much possibility after seeing the Light.

If you work diligently, you can make 2-day make sense. Don't wait till one day comes again. Make sense of 2 day. Otherwise, you'll be knocked back by 3-day and 4-day. Liberation is about releasing yourself from the stories and excuses of the past while embracing 2-day so 3-day and 4-day are joyous. Sometimes you just have to dig your hands in the dirt and start working. You may not go exactly where you want to go, but at least you'll move! It is not wise to be lazy. It seems like mental slavery is very comfortable for some people. As Nightjohn, we come to help ya read the signs of the times, so you can begin learning mind power to mentally break free. We help you read your own inner alphabet and write your own life plan. Be literate about your own genius so you can make sense of life 2-day. Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent problems.

"I wanna give back a message…the message is a lot more valuable than giving a community center. That'll go under. They'll forget about it. They don't know what a community center is. Give them a message, and they will have that with them when they walk the streets."

*-**D**MX*

Wash That Paper – The Day When It All Makes Sense

Keep washin' that paper playa! We got work to do. If it all makes sense today, then we can all start building the foundation for the seeds coming after us. What if we ruled the world? What if we didn't have to rule the world? What if the world was shared among all people in peace, justice, and equality? Is that a pipe dream? The prisons are packed, black people kill black people over crumbs. The youth aren't even bobbin' they heads to authentic Hiphop. They bobbin' they heads to that watered down Hip slop on M.T.V. and B.E.T. We gotta let the youth know that it's bigger than Hiphop.

We can't let America's filthy dirty paper money control everything. All the paper is dirty. We gotta wash away everything having to do with the paper chase. Instead of chasing paper, we gotta start creating paper from inside out, finding the wealth inside the man or the woman and let it unfold in the ancient African sense. Sometimes it makes even more sense when we share, give, and teach others. Is that not what Divine Purpose is about? Now that the physical chains are off, we got mental chains around us. At least mental chains can be broken while we're still alive. It takes discipline, but breaking free is possible.

Today, it all makes sense that we start moving forward to a deeper power of Hiphop, awakening the Hiphop within. The essence of liberation is the final feeling that it all makes sense today, and we can do whatever we want emotionally, mentally, Spiritually, and financially. Let's get free. After a while, something has to give. When it does, everything will be washed away. It will all be cleansed. It will all be fresh Hiphop, almost like a Hiphop Renaissance. That's the only way it will make sense, that's the only way it does make sense.

"I seen way beyond my boundaries when I was coming up.
I always had a vision."

*- **Koo**l G. Rap*

Droppin' Science - Modern Physics & Eastern Mystics

Connect the dots between modern physics and eastern mysticism. Read the book: The Parallels of Modern Physics and Eastern Mysticism, by Fritjof Capra. You may be very surprised at his discoveries. As a physicist he was sitting on the beach one day and realized, "I've been studying all this time, and it all makes sense the Universe is one." That connection led him to write his book on the similarities between quantum physics and Eastern mystic thought. There's always been gold dust in the air.

When connections are made people realize that it really all does come full circle. What would you expect? We live on a sphere called Earth! It better come around full circle!

Droppin' science is just the nature of Hiphop. We must connect with the Divine cosmos. The Egyptians did it, so we do it here and now. We are now -here : nowhere. Connections are only made when we stay aware, pay attention to the world and keep ourselves balanced internally. You can't make connections when you're running around with a chicken like it's head cut off. You can make A lot of connections in solitude and nature. Remember, art is science and science is art.

Droppin' science doesn't always have to be overly complicated and intellectual. There's a yin and a yang, a positive and a negative. Science is officially dropped when Truth is revealed. Droppin' science is more about taken the complex and making it very simple and easy to understand. Physics is about energy, and meditation is about energy. Physics is about molecules, particles, light, and vibration. Eastern mystics breathe, connect, observe, and move. The Western mind tried to break apart the Universe into billions of tiny representations of everything. Now we have volumes of physics books that would take years to understand. In the East, they tried to put the Universe together and make it a simple concept: The Way. Now they have one little tiny book called the Tao Te Ching which is enough to explain life for them. Let's try simplicity instead of complexity for a change.

It's up to you, choose your adventure. In The Hiphop Driven Life, we merely prefer to drop science using the simplest and most effective route to get the word out to the people. We like to give you metaphors so you see the connection in all things, rather than giving you a billion definitions for what everything is and forcing you to memorize them. It's hard to remember a lot. It's easy to remember a little. It's hard to memorize equations, symbols, and formulas. It's easy to remember pictures like basketballs, soccer balls, paper, scissors, and rock. We don't want to prove anything to you about our knowledge. We want to drop science that you remember and will use now! Make your connections and prosper.

"You only live once, man. Do what you really wanna do."

-***Pl***anet Asia

Bless The Mic - Truth Within All Religions

As you may have read in the acknowledgements of this book, please do not focus too much on Nightjohn or our music books. We are just the messengers. The words we write and the music we create is to take you much higher. There is an inherent Truth in all religions. Hiphop has blessed people all over the world. People from all religions have participated in Hiphop. Our **11**th Principle in the Hiphop Declaration of Peace reveals the Truth about Hiphop. Everyone seems to have their own version of the Truth. We present to you paths to get to your Truth. When it's all said and done, it's your Truth that matters the most. Obey your Creator, and follow your religion. While you do that, enjoy the fruits you provide for Hiphop and that Hiphop provides for you. We are thankful to embrace people from anywhere who believe in anything. Thank you for being yourselves. You make Hiphop the beautiful collective consciousness that it is. Peace, love, unity, and have some fun!

"Knowledge of one's identity, one's Self, community,
nation, religion, and God is the true meaning of resurrection,
while ignorance of it signifies hell."

- ***The Honora***ble Elijah Muhammad

Afro-Humanistic - Human Beings All Have Blood

All people are connected and should unite. If you know you are racist and prejudice. Stop being like that, whether you are black or white. It ain't gonna get you anywhere! All human beings have blood, and all human beings were born between urine and feces. Nobody has the right to judge anyone else based on anything, especially race. This is our combat against racism: We love the racist more than the racist loves his or her Self.

We love the racist, because the racist makes us sharper, more potent, more aware. Mainstream rejection usually occurs when a society is swamped in mind control. Due to racism, many people are simply denied certain rights as human beings. What the racist forgot, was that their arms are too short to box with God. The rejected stone becomes the corner stone. It's a Divine law of nature. Karma is in our favor. People, don't let racism hold you down. You must combat the conspiracy with discipline and outstanding levels of Self-mastery according to your Divine Purpose and particular area of genius or expertise. Too many people carry around inferiority complexes because some racist in the past showed their racism. If you have any hint of brown in your skin pigmentation, in the United States, the chances are that you will experience racism. You can't escape racism. It will be here. We don't know how long, but it will be here. So many people in our society try, try, and try to escape racism. You can't escape it. It

must be accepted and faced squarely head on. Love your enemies more. Their own hate of your skin pigmentation will destroy them. Use their own hateful energy and allow it to bounce off of you back to them. Let nothing affect you. Be a Buddha when it comes to the racist of all types. Sticks and stones may break our bones but words will never hurt us.

"We try to pay attention to the mistakes that we make ourselves and that other people make. But we try to keep, most of all, in our own minds, what we're here for, and that's to better ourselves. We're always about Self-determination. In anything you do, it's a process to elevate."

-Cocoa Brovaz

Until ….the philosophy …..…
Which hold one race superior
And another …….inferior
Is finally……....and permanently ……. discredited
……..And abandoned……..everywhere is war (war)!!!
Me say war……(war, war)
That Until there no longer ……. (war, war)
first class and second class citizens of any nation
until the color of a man's skin
is of no more significance…… than the color of his eyes
me say war (War, war,)
That until the basic human rights
Are equally guaranteed to all without regard to race
It's a war (war)
That until that day…..the dream of lasting peace
World citizenship……rule of international morality
Will remaining but a fleeting illusion to be pursued
But never attained
Now, everywhere is war
War (war, war, war)
And until the ignoble and unhappy regime
That hold our brothers in Angola…….in Mozambique
South Africa….suffer human bondage
Have been toppled….utterly destroyed
Well….everywhere is war
Me say war
War in the east, War in the west,
War up north, War down south
War, war, …..rumors of a war
And until that day ……
the African continent…….. will not know peace
We Africans will fight, we find it necessary!!!!
We know we shall win, as we are confident!!!
In the Victory …….of good over evil
Of Good over evil
Of Good over evil
Of Good over evil

Bob Marley – "War"

As Nightjohn, our chief aim is to discredit these same philosophies of an establishment which holds one race superior and another inferior. Such a philosophy seeks to dominate the minds of the masses through mind control, propaganda, seductive advertising, and making humans slaves to technology. Our philosophy works in real life! We are waging a mind control war on American mainstream cultural brainwashing. WE control our minds. Our book is a product of our own Self-directed mind control. Others could not concentrate and make it. However, we disciplined ourselves to represent the people. The war is in the words. Words are more powerful than guns, trucks, planes, tanks, submarines, and aircraft. Man made machinery, but word made man! Our book has words that can help young men and women like you act boldly to unleash your Divine Purpose and awaken the genius within you.

All the people in the world will unite through words. Those words are found in Hiphop. If you don't get anything else in this book. Realize that this section is one aspect of the essence. The words of Bob Marley, one of our hero's, live on in our hearts

and minds. He made this song several years ago, but there is still unjust war in the world to make it suitable for today's climate.

When the World Trade Center was struck with two planes, it was a sign that peace has not been fighting hard enough to conquer war. It meant that we are all still in mental slavery. Peace must be as powerful as war or war will prevail. United States foreign policies are creating wars, not preventing them. What's up with that!? Why can't we first clean up our mess at home within the United States? Why are there homeless people sleeping right outside the White House and all the other monuments in Washington, D.C.??

We know one thing for sure, Hiphop is an International Kulture of Peace and Prosperity. You are the people that make such a vision and world a possibility. Until you do something to claim your rights as a human being, there is nothing that we can do to stop the insanity. The longer you are a mental slave, the longer we will all be in the bondage of ignorance, pain, and greed.

If each urban soldier and freedom fighter could combine the power of their own mind and words with the mind and words of others, a true democracy to form quickly. Right now we are in a regime. WE the people have to take back control of our country. All it takes is for each person to commit to Self-mastery and a little organization. Everybody play ya position.

"I get through the butterflies and go through stages
and overcome it and deal with it. I face my fears…
'Cause when I face my fear, it takes a load off my brain.
By facing your fears, you actually will have no fear.
By facing 'em, you cancel them out."

- Canibus

Verbal Mind Food – Use Metaphors

Dine daily on verbal mind food. Metaphors are a type of verbal mind food. Stay well fed with metaphors. Metaphors have the power to help you describe your inner and outer reality. We stay up on metaphors day in and day out. A metaphor a day will keep the insanity away. Describe and express yourself. Self-expression is a simple task, but many people are locked into the box, afraid to share anything inside with the world for fear of either ridicule or rejection. We've already been rejected. Ain't nothing new!

Use metaphors to keep you positive and your mind strengthened. As a genius, it might get a little less crowded at the top. Many people will point fingers and ridicule your genius mind. Keep moving. The greatest metaphor is our metaphor of the ocean. There are sharks and everything else in the ocean that may try to attack you. You must evade the mental and verbal attackers. Don't let anyone stand in the way of your Divine Purpose and mission.

We'll use a metaphor to describe a metaphor. Think of a metaphor as being like a movie. Whenever you want to watch something to give you a different feeling about life or your situation pop in a movie in your mind. Is life a journey, a war, a game, a mystery, an adventure, a joke etc. Which is it? If life is a war, it might make your mind stressed and perplexed at the sight of death. If it's a game, you might win some and lose some. If life is a journey you might make discoveries along the trip. If life is a mystery, you'll wake up every day in awe and wonder. If life is an adventure, you might wake up every day to a new action sequence. If it's a joke, well, you'll laugh….a lot…maybe too much..

We all use metaphors, we just don't realize it. Some people will say, he stabbed me in the back, or life is like a box of chocolates. Sometimes, the best metaphors are the ones that come to your mind and allow you to describe your fantasy or reality. There is no limit to the way you can describe your existence. Therefore, do not limit yourself when it comes to metaphors.

"Friendship is a Spiritual bond. It is unconditional love, trust, honesty, loyalty, and Truth; but most importantly, friendship is being oneself."

-Lil' Kim

Too Stressful? – Look at Galaxies or Cartoons

Extremism is good only for certain periods of time. It's good to fluctuate between extremism and nonchalance. Sometimes when you are a revolutionary genius with Divine Purpose, life can be a little demanding. You may have so many issues floating around in your mind that it might feel like your brain is physically stretching. Please do not burst an artery trying to be a genius! Chill. Be easy. Stay cool. Sometimes you might need to take your mind off of things. If there are too many things your thinking about you've got to clear your mind.

There was a story about how Brother Malcolm X was teaching a man in the Nation of Islam, and the dude just started

going crazy one night, talking all kinds of crazy things to his wife, and ranting and raving off the top of his head about killing himself. They called Brother Malcolm and he came. Malcolm X's solution: He said, "He'll be alright, he just needs to watch some cartoons." Malcolm and another brother literally took dude to the cinema to watch cartoons. The man just stared at the screen. Then after an hour or so, he just started laughing in a wild outburst. He was healed. Brother Malcolm was a Divine genius with Divine Purpose.

Sometimes taking the weight of the world on our shoulders can be a bit tiresome. Being a leader is not always an easy path to take. Nevertheless, it is very rewarding. Just remember that, everything is everything. We only live one life. Sometimes there just aren't answers to every question. We'll never be perfect. We must do fun things, enjoy life, watch cartoons, lay down in the grass and look for four leave clovers. Sometimes we just have to stare up at the clouds and get a breather. Whatever you do, don't let too many things get into your mind without some type of release to keep you sane. That's the last thing we need is a bunch of insane geniuses. We all have beautiful minds, let's keep them beautifully cultivated and not stressed like a garden with overgrown weeds.

Maybe you should just spend a whole night looking up at the stars. When our mind is cluttered, we need to also breathe deeply, and get oxygen to our brain. There's no better way to do that than while staring up at the sky amazed at the wonder of the Universe. You'll have so many deep thoughts that you'll forget about whatever was bothering you. Some people choose to take away the pain with a bottle of liquor, or herb, or cocaine, or a hotel room full of prostitutes, or cooking with family, or deep breathing in fresh air. It's all a choice. Only you can determine which choice is best for you and which will result in certain consequences. Make choices that empower you and keep you alive. That would be a basic underlying strategy to handle stress and tough situations. Learn to control your breathing and you will control your mind, body, and emotions.

"I've been shot at, stabbed. All of that street shit…you don't have to go through that if you don't want to. The option is yours. You have to set high standards for yourself."
-Rahzel, "The Godfather of Noyze"

Slow Your Role - The Moon is Always With You

No matter where you are on Earth, realize that the moon is still with you. Such a realization helps us remember that we are very tiny compared to the power of the Universe. The Earth is carrying our tiny bodies through space as it swirls around the Sun and rotates itself. We're so small in comparison to this movement that we can't even feel it. Maybe we feel it when we root ourselves in solitude. Maybe we feel it when we meditate. Slow you role and your roll. Too often people try to "get ya roll on" always doing things, but it backfires and burns people into the ground.

Sometimes in life, what's the rush? The Sun shall come up tomorrow, and we shall see the Moon again. Nothing even matters. No thing even matters. The Spirit inside us is what matters. Our inner potential is what matters. Our ability to influence and shape the world around us is what matters. The eternity we love within us is what matters. Obey the Divine law within yourself and realize that your connection with all things is reflected in the cosmos. The Sun, Moon, and Stars are the same glow that is found within your soul when you tap into it. Slow your role and your roll.

"I'm trying to show and introduce my fellow inmates, most of whom are young men, to [the] different attributes all humans need to succeed, including discipline, Self-confidence, determination, faith, and a belief in God and yourself." ***-Sh***yne

Please Believe! - The Bird's Eye View

Please believe in the Most High. This book would never be in your hands if it wasn't for the Most High. Do not look at us, look at the message. We are merely messengers. Our Divine Creator has given us the words to give to you. These words you are reading are not an accident. They are all part of an integral Divine Purpose. Take a bird's eye view of this situation. You are reading this book in the crib, while sitting somewhere, laying somewhere, standing in line somewhere, in a park somewhere, in a studio, on a bus, on a plane, in a car, or in a train. Wherever you are, imagine yourself high above in the sky looking down on your current body reading this book. What do you see? Do you believe that there is energy beyond your own mind and your own Self?

Each individual must believe in something. If you are going to believe, please believe in your dreams and not your setbacks. Believe in your strengths and not your weakness. Believe in your faith and not your fear. Believe in your goals and not your worries. Believe in who you are and not what people call you. We wouldn't say so if we weren't obligated to carry on the energy of our Creator who as rewarded us time and time again for simply believing. You may want your life to be a certain way, or workout a certain way. However, you must Trust that everything you need will come at the right time, in the right place, in the right way. The longer you believe in absolute faith, the better it will all be for you.

If you can conceive, you can believe, and you can achieve. It's all connected. Does it all make sense? Does it even make sense a little bit? Do you want it make sense? Your Divine Purpose is waiting for you and so is your genius. The question is: Are you ready to make the connections in all of your life to reveal it. We think you are, but that's only because we believe in YOU. We hope YOU believe in YOU too.

Showtime – Oh So We At the Apollo Now?

When it's time to shine, there is no holding back. It's showtime. When you have your Divine Purpose and your Divine genius solid in your heart and mind, it's time for you to shine your Light on the world. The brighter the better. There is NO holding back. You are only getting one shot to embrace your spark of genius and share it with the world. What if it's not exactly 100% your Purpose? What do you have to lose by trying something anything to move you forward. Maybe that one step backward is what you need to take those three steps forward. Remember, life is what you make of it.

When you do shine, remember to embrace each moment. We all really are just dust in the wind, blowing around in this Infinite Universe. Where will we go next? Is there a next? How much will we let the little things bother us? How bad do you want it? No really. **How bad do you want it??** That's all it amounts to. Geniuses know how to create their own luck. Nobody's born a genius. We all have to draw out of ourselves the finest and best feelings and behaviors of our divinity. Stay real, because we ain't nothing but dust blowin' in the wind.

People will always be people, so don't expect to change people. Change yourself and people will see what you mean. People will see how serious you are when you produce fruits! They scorn you on your way up, but it's the juicy results that they want to praise you on. The funny thing is that, once you get to a certain level where you can take revenge, you've been through so much that it doesn't matter anymore. You just want to live your life in love, peace, and happiness. You just want to kick back listen to some Al Green or Teddy Pendergrass, rest on a beach in Tahiti and cultivate Kundalini. You just want to keep it tight with ya family and friends, take in good food, count ends, enjoy life and watch the young kids play. You just want to reminisce about the good times, the heartaches, the pains, the funny times. You just want all the dots connected so you see how it all comes full circle in the beautiful picture of your ONE and only life. You have been created in God's image. **YOU are the Alpha And Omega**. **YOU are without beginning and without end. Hiphop is the Alpha And Omega. Hiphop is without beginning and without end.** We are only a mere reflection of you. We write for you, because YOU made us before we made YOU. Connect the dots la la la… connect the dots …do you know who ya …are??

"It's all about being consistent, staying focused, no matter what you are, black, white, Spanish, whatever. Come thorough, come official. Don't ever be intimidated or feel like once you get turned away it's over. You just gotta keep it moving."

- DJ Tony Touch

What's Your Divine Purp ose?

Let's Go Back to Africa

Nia: Purpose

"Nia (NEE-ah) is the fifth day of Kwanzaa and it means 'Purpose.' On this day, we pledge to build and develop our

communities, our schools, and our families. We also pledge to provide a strong communal foundation from which our children can develop into strong and productive people. Finding Nia helps me recognize the importance of what I do as individual. I therefore struggle constantly to eliminate those elements that are destructive and not in accord with this plan."

-A Divine Genius

In life, we all must make the transition from boy to man; and girl to woman. At what age should this normally occur? Sadly, in the United States of America, this transformation may never occur!?!? What are the defining moments that show us we are finally adults? What are the rites of passage? We have observed that in our society something is missing in this sacred transition into adulthood. Is it the Western culture that causes such confusion? Is it a loss of morality? Is it our own faults for not being smarter or working harder? Who knows? What we do know, is that you can become more aware of your growth and maturity. You can discover a life that is deeply meaningful to you. You can remember exactly what you have been put on this earth to do. It will take more than just graduating high school, getting into the best college, or landing that perfect J-O-B. This is not an external achievement, but an internal achievement. It will take courage. It will take pride in your Self. It will take belief. Most of all, it will take faith in your own personal Spirit.

We live in an entertainment age. We must show you how to create inner-attainment (entertainment within your Self) transform your gifts into outer-attainment (wherever you are) and become Light to inspire others so you earn a living doing what you love. You've probably been bombarded with so many images through movies, T.V., and computers; that by the time you read this, you may totally believe that life is only about those images. Our aim is to reveal to you another world. That's right. Step into a world. Step into eternity. To discover your Divine Purpose, you must learn how to make a transfer of your focus from the outer world to the inner world. Instead of using a regular computer, you will have to begin using the technology of your mind. Human beings are amazing creations. Sometimes we forget how powerful our mind, body, and Spirit really are. If you have been confused about what direction to take your life, now is a chance to discover how to design the life you've always dreamed about.

We know you're sitting on the edge of your seat, but first we must give you a background into the nature of this process. If you are between the ages of 11 and 18, you have most likely begun puberty. The way young people age these days, in our society, our bodies almost always mature faster than our minds and Spirits. This is a very important fact. Simply because you have big breasts, child bearing hips, and a menstrual cycle doesn't not make you a woman. Simply because you are six foot, weigh 200lbs, have a beard, and have a deep voice does not make you a man. You are neither a man nor woman until you have reached full growth in mind, body, and Spirit; not body alone. The growth of mind and Spirit is the awakening of your true Divine Purpose.

Ideally, the bodily shift from boy to man, and girl to woman occurs within this age range. In many indigenous cultures, this is the age range where young adults are brought into various forms of initiation and ritual passages. These rites of passage are a compliment to the raging hormones, dreams, visions, enthusiasm, and sexual energy unleashed at the adolescent age. In world history, men have become hunters or kings at ages as young as 14. Likewise, women have gotten married and raised families at young ages under 17. It is the identity, responsibility, and Purpose within Self and community that truly makes a boy a man; or a girl a woman.

In America, and the Western world, this transition has lost definition. Public schools hypnotize young people by wearing them down and suppressing creative Self-expression. Because this adolescent expressive energy is so powerful, it gets perverted and alternative rites of passage are created (i.e. gangs, teenage pregnancy, drug dealing, and violence). Sometimes sports can be a test of courage. Also, various clubs, fraternities, and sororities also become the vehicle for transformation. Those who stay on the "straight and narrow" path focusing mainly on middle school grades, high school grades, then college, usually end up resorting to grades, achievement, graduation ceremonies, and degrees as definitions of transition into manhood and womanhood.

We have noticed that although these other forms of initiation and rites of passage occur in our society, many young men and women have still not paid their Universal dues. Will being in college, obtaining a degree, or acquiring a job allow you to survive and prosper in a competitive society with sanity. There are thirty year old women who are intelligent, have degrees, and nice jobs but have a lack of maturity and sense of unresolved Purpose in their lives, so they still be club hoppin'. In the end, they feel something missing in their lives, but can't define it, they float into an emotional void. Likewise, there are young men at the age of sixteen who know exactly what they want in life and have overcome obstacles to carry on the responsibility of manhood by launching illegal drug transport empires. In our country, adulthood has become perverted. The real transition of being a man or woman is about withstanding life's true tests and mastering them. Having a mature mind and Spirit is just as important as having a mature body in adulthood.

You have to pay your dues to discover your Divine Purpose. You will have initiations into adult life no matter who you are and what you do. Wouldn't you rather be able to choose your initiations that let the world beat you into shape? In other words, you can identify your vision, Divine Purpose, and goals. Once you have set the stakes of who you are and what you want, then you can go about the process of strategizing and applying tactics to turn your vision into reality. These Self-created obstacles provide you with an exciting, fun, and adventurous future that pulls you forward. On the other hand, if you don't want to pay your dues, you will

move along in life until crisis hits you, adversity enters, and disaster strikes. You may be in an accident, you may lose a job, a loved one may die, a friend may be murdered, you could be raped, you may flunk out of school. Life will test you. The Universe will test you to see if you are worthy of carrying on your life the way you are living in mind, body, and Spirit.

The good news is that if you choose your journey, you are creating your own challenges. These challenges become quality problems. These challenges help you grow and give you degrees in wisdom. The other so called disasters may still happen, but the chances are if you are living a life you chose, you will be able to handle anything that comes your way. Most of our fears are that we can't handle life or certain situations. We are told far too much by parents, counselors, coaches, or authorities in school to "be careful," or "What if that doesn't work?" These verbal attacks really are meant to isolate you and prevent you from venturing out into the real world. In reality, we all live in the real world. The question is, "Why would someone want to keep you out of it until a certain age?" It would be much better to be prepared for the real world while you are young so you have a head start at the game of life!! Tell them that you can handle it!

As human beings, our needs begin with basic survival (hunger, thirst, reproduction, clothing, shelter), then safety (protection, comfort, predictability), then love (affection and acceptance), then worth, then Self-actualization. No matter what you do, you will find a way. The biggest barrier you face is not how something will get done or when you should take action. The biggest barrier you face is deciding that no matter what, you are going to discover your Divine Purpose. It's deciding you will pay your dues to the Universe. Once you pay your dues (get initiated) into the Universe and follow Universal laws, you can have anything you want in the Universe. Your genius is within you! Paying your dues will help you unfold that genius and reveal it through mind, body, and Spirit. This is the formula for being a happy, fulfilled, youthful, adventurous adult. The other alternative is to never pay your dues, being passive; and let things happen to you. You'll become a mature adult because you'll have so many hard times, but you won't enjoy your adulthood unless you've chosen to live the life you were destined to live.

Paying your Universal dues has four stages. Remember, this is a symbolic process of initiation through mind and Spirit for discovering Divine Purpose by committing to living a Hiphop Driven Life. However, it is not limited to a Hiphop lifestyle. This transformation can work for any human being living any lifestyle. Just like Marcus Garvey and the Blackstar Line, we goin' back to Africa!

"Maintain your sense of Purpose.
Listen to yourself and know what you like."
-Gift of Gab of Blackalicious

Discover Your Divine Purpose!

History **(Translation)**

1. Plan Your Escape Nightjohn taught you the alphabet and how to read. You've carefully observed the weaknesses of your oppressor/slave master. You know when he comes and goes, sleeps, eats, shits, and fucks. You have timed his every move. You know the tactics he uses to keep your people in captivity and bondage. You've stolen maps, food, and lanterns to get to the Atlantic coast. You have set up your escape route. (By All Means Necessary)	**1. (Be Genius) Think Out the Box** You slowly reverse Western industrial mainstream thinking that has been forced upon you through mind control in T.V., Radio, Movies, & Advertising. You begin submerging your Self in Undaground thought by re-evaluating the entire society you live in. You study Hiphop Kulture, African History, Tablets, World Religion, Metaphysics, Astrology, Right Knowledge and Spirituality. (Trouble Starts)
2. Leave the Atlantic shore You also found the "Keys" to knowledge, wisdom, overstanding, and prosperity in the "massa's" sleeping quarters. You stole these "Keys," and ocean maps that you'll use to get back to Cotonou, Benin, the land of your original Yoruba people. You want to get back into the world of Spirit. You have broken the shackles of mental slavery and the comforts the oppressor tried to give you to keep you as a field slave. N.O.R.E. (Now we On the Run Eatin')	**2. (Purpose) Word Is Made Flesh** You begin building your own vocabulary and using words to describe your R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. You write plans, rhymes, poetry, visions, descriptions of your Divine Purpose, goals, journal entries, mind maps, and notebook sketches. You build your own slang, lexicon, and study words to communicate your Divine Purpose and thirst for freedom & liberation to your Self; and others in the Undaground & International Hiphop Community. (You A Mastermind)

Discover Your Divine Purpose! (cont.)

History	(Translation)
3. Cross the Atlantic You use what ever scraps you can put together to build a boat, canoe, ship, or submarine with backups. You gather equipment, weapons, and food reserves, tools etc. You make repairs as you go. You encounter danger, pirates, sharks, thieves, nuclear submarines, and slave owners chasing you in steam boats. But you are quick to counter these attacks using your sphericity: (the ethics of Self-defense). At this point, you do whatever it takes to survive. You have begun running out of food and water, so you have to be creative and kill sharks etc. (New York State of Mind)	**3. (Intelligence) Smart Actions** You take actions toward your goals and many backfire. You meet with short-term failure, setbacks, delays, and challenges. You re-evaluate your mistakes to learn from the error in your ways. You're as "determined as them old timers." You stay focused on your Divine Purpose and results instead of thinking of failure & doubt. You face serious adversity for the first time in life. You may even reach points of desperation, depression, and despair. Your Divine Purpose, Spirit, or WORD is what pulls you magically forward through chaos. (Means Extreme Disruption)

4. Arriving on African soil	4. (Prosperity) Adult Liberation
Rather than just being an Uncle Tom, House Nicca, or Minstrel clown at a coon picnic; You took your life into your own hands facing the unknown Atlantic and your fears. While other slaves built sand castles, blinded by the oppressors tricks, you paid your dues to the Universe and survived the currents, storms, and dangers of the Atlantic. Your ship almost sunk, you almost drowned three times, and you were starved and dehydrated. You are greeted with a prince/princess of paradise. You are honored as your people have prepared a feast fit for a King. (On Top of Sugar Hill)	You've earned your respect as an Attuned Hiphoppa, rather than the assimilated monkey see monkey do of the mainstream. You've completed projects. You've accomplished goals. You've faced your fears. You've helped others. You've published books, and C.D.'s. You fully embrace a community of like minded people who respect and admire your will and determination. You are back to health, love, awareness, and wealth; natural fruits of your indigenous culture. You got peace of mind. You arrived at your Destiny safe and sound. Happy. (Dreams Fulfilled- More Room To Build)

"They killing over some stupid shit now. Over stupid reasons – over a bitch that's just giving booty to everybody, over an argument, over money. You don't kill nobody over that."

***-DM*X**

How do we define Purpose?

pur·pose (pûr p?s) *n.*

1. **The object toward which one strives or for which something exists; an aim or a goal:** "And ever those, who would enjoyment gain/Must find it in the Purpose they pursue" (Sarah Josepha Hale).

2. **A result or effect that is intended or desired; an intention.** See Synonyms at intention.

3. **Determination; resolution:** *He was a man of Purpose.*

4. **The matter at hand; the point at issue.**
   tr.v. **pur·posed, pur·pos·ing, pur·pos·es**

   To intend or resolve to perform or accomplish.

Idioms: on Purpose
Intentionally; deliberately.
to good Purpose
With good results.
to little/no Purpose
With few or no results.

[Middle English purpos, from Anglo-Norman, from Purposer, *to intend* : pur-, *forth* (from Latin pr -. See **pro-**$_1$) + poser, *to put*; see **pose**$_1$.]

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How do we define Purpose? We will emphasize three different interpretations of Purpose: the meaning we ascribe to actions, the core of goodness to live for a motivation beyond our own Selfish gain, and finally our mission, the passionate conviction and commitment that drives us to manifest our dreams. Deciding to live by your own Purpose is the process of organizing our thoughts in order to develop a higher level of being in our selves. You may describe your Purpose in a variety of ways, as long as you are aware of it, and act in alignment with your Purpose.

Once we have decided what our Divine Purpose is, in order to improve our selves, we must measure our activity to see if we

are moving toward our Purpose or falling short of our Purpose. You will need to measure the results in your life in order to have real facts about your life; to know if you are on the right path. The typical mainstream measurement of Purpose has always been by financial security, professional status, or community praise. What if there was another way to measure whether you are living on Purpose?

It was once stated by someone that the way to determine a person's values is too look at either their wallet/purse or their day planner/schedule. If you are spending your time and money, it can either be in alignment with your Purpose or not. There is no in between, if you have clearly defined your Purpose. Regularly ask yourself this one question consistently and faithfully every year, month, week, day, and hour to help you stay on the path of your Divine Purpose. It all lies in the answer to this question:

"Is this exertion of my life energy and expenditure of cash in alignment with what is most important to me, my values?"

For some odd reason, money and time never really lie if we keep accurate records. This is where our development of the analytical sides of our brains becomes very useful. It takes effort and Self-discipline to track the numbers of where all your money and time is going. However, if you do, your Purpose or lack thereof will start becoming very clear to you.

Another simple way to measure your advancement toward your Destiny and Divine Purpose is through the Life Purpose Test, based on the work of Victor Frankl, author of Man's Search for Meaning. If you have an opportunity, we highly recommend that you read Man's Search for Meaning. It would be a great complement to The Hiphop Driven Life, adding to your overstanding of liberation. Frankl's book helps us all realize that no matter how harsh our circumstances are as human beings, there is something more powerful; something that takes us beyond our present suffering and pain. Victor Frankl survived Nazi death camps and lived to tell about it! He observed that there was a driving force beyond intelligence or psychology that compelled people to retain their humanity in inhumane environments. He concluded that one factor was "meaning" (a.k.a. Purpose) – an ability to discover, through deep communication with one's own inner consciousness, a positive significance in the events of one's life. Frankl wrote that **the will to have meaning and PURPOSE in life is SUPERIOR to the will to have power or the will to find pleasure!**

Ain't that some Good News!! The Good News is here, brought to you by yours truly: **Nightjohn**, the Spirit of two Attuned Hiphoppas and Kultural Specialists! Guess what?! Anyone oppressing you has a will to have power or a will to accumulate pleasure for pleasures sake. If you counteract their will to dominate, emasculate, and pimp you with your will to have Divine Purpose, alas you **WI**LL win the victory of good over evil, the victory over the streets! And you thought Armageddon was going to be difficult!?! We'll be home in a enough time to write some rhymes and make love to our Goddesses! That's the only way David could beat Goliath, especially if Goliath had a strong will to be powerful and dominant. Goliath couldn't fuck with David, because David was fighting for the Divine Purpose of the Great Event, Supreme Being, Infinite Intelligence, Allah, Ra, Jehovah, Olorun/Oladumare, a.k.a. "God." It's the things that make ya go hmmm…….

The drive for pleasure and power take over when the will to find meaning and Purpose has been destroyed in the hearts and minds of Spiritual people. The main objective of racist criminals who held African's captive as slaves was to destroy the deep sense of **DIVINE PURPOSE** and **DIVINE GE**NIUS within the **HEARTS** and **MINDS** of African people. Being human means relating and being directed to something or someone other than oneself. The basic American lifestyle in our culture is completive, capitalistic, consumer driven, and straight up anti-human. It is alarming that television, advertisements, billboards, police brutality, violent horrific movies, perverted rap videos on M.T.V. and B.E.T., sex addiction, prostitution, pornography, alcoholism, tobacco/nicotine abuse, and drug addiction all have been used as clever tools. These are the tools your oppressor uses to thwart your sense of Purpose in life. **The powerful stay in power when they know and can guarantee that YOU have no sense of Purpose.** The greedy trick you when they know that YOU have no sense of Purpose. Divine Purpose is like kryptonite to elitist, racist, violent, powerful, war crazy dictators in regimes. If you wanna see some cowards run up into the hills hiding in caves and bushes, step up to them muthafuckas with a sense of Divine Purpose, and speak Truth to power!

Below is a questionnaire based on Frankl's work. Be honest and objective. The only way to make progress is to measure the real facts of YOUR life. This is to help you, not make you feel inadequate. Once you have gone through the questionnaire, to arrive at your score, add the numbers circled:

1. I am usually:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Completely exuberant bored enthusiastic (neutral)

2. Life to me seems:	7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Always (neutral) completely exciting routine
3. In life I have:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 No goals (neutral) very clear goals aims at all and aims
4. My personal existence is:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Utterly meaningless (neutral) very Purpose ful without Purpose and meaningful
5. Every day is:	7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Constantly (neutral) exactly the same new
6. If I could choose, I would:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Prefer never to (neutral) like nine more lives have been born just like this one
7. After retiring, I would:	7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Do some of the exciting (neutral) loaf completely the things I have always rest of my life
8. In achieving life goals I have:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Made no progress (neutral) progressed to complete whatever fulfillment
9. My life is:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Empty, filled (neutral) running over with only with despair exciting good things
10. If I should die today, I would feel that my life has been:	7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Very worthwhile (neutral) completely worthless
11. In thinking of my life, I:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Often wonder (neutral) always see areason why I exist for my being here

12. As I view the world in relation to my life, the word:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Completely meaningfully confuses me (neutral) fits
13. I am a:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very irresponsible person (neutral) very responsible person person
14. Concerning man/woman's freedom to make his/her own choices, I believe humans are:	7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Absolutely free to make all life choices (neutral) completely bound by heredity and environment limitations of
15. With regard to death, I am:	7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Prepared and unprepared (neutral) unafraid frightened
16. With regard to suicide, I have:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Thought of it seriously as a way out (neutral) never given it a second thought
17. I regard my ability to find meaning, Purpose, or mission in life as:	7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Very great (neutral) practically none
18. My life is:	7 6 5 4 3 2 1 In my hands and I am in control of it (neutral) practically none and controlled by external factors
19. Facing my daily tasks is:	7 6 5 4 3 2 1 A source of painful boring (neutral) a pleasure and satisfaction and experience
20. I have discovered:	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 No mission or Purpose in life (neutral) clear-cut goals and a satisfying life Purpose

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If you scored below 92, you probably lack meaning and Purpose in life and you are being pimped and bamboozled by the powers that be. If you were in the 92-112 range, your sense of Purpose is indecisive or hazy, and you stand for nothing, so you fall for anything. If your score was greater than 112 you have a clear Purpose in life. Whatever your score, always discipline your Self to communicate, act, and behave with Purpose.

If you have a Divine Purpose in life higher than getting more and getting ahead, your energy will be concentrated on fulfilling that Purpose, whether it is writing rhymes, taking care of your children, designing clothes, public speaking, or starting a business in your own community. Our lives are worth more than dollars and cents. Once we begin defining our Self-worth by the fulfillment of our Purpose, we can get out of the rat race mentality, our addiction to hustlin', and regular J-O-B's. Instead of our lives being about getting ahead of our brothers and sisters, it becomes a quest to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Our lives become about loving thy neighbor as we love the Most High. This is how we get our sense of community back and destroy the powers who oppress us.

So…what is your Divine Purpose? Your Purpose is your niche. According to your own strengths and weaknesses, your Purpose is being yourself and doing activities that you do best. Purpose is found in doing activities that contribute to some type of advancement to the increase of all and the improvement of all of humanity; in a simple way, or a grandiose way; take your pick. The Supreme Being has counted every fiber of your being. There is a reason for your life. You have the choice to decide why you are here on this Earth and what you are going to do about it! What will you do with your life? Who will you spend your life with? How will your life's work make a difference in the world? When people don't do what they're supposed to, they suffer. Suffering is the result of being ill prepared for a livelihood that advances humanity. When your life is out of alignment with your own highest standards, you are not doing what you are supposed to; whether it be a certain school, job, relationship, friendship, or business partnership. If there is no love flowing through your SELF as you live day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute, and second by second; you may be living a life that is not meant for you to live. You may need to shake yourself away from your present circumstances, make difficult rebel choices, and live the life of your dreams. Live now! "If you are just out here getting by…..somebody say OHHHH MY!!"

"Something that you hold dear or close to you without being obsessed with it. A dude that's a killer may love to kill people, somebody that loves flowers may plant flowers. That word and the passion for what you do is still the same, but the action is different."

-Freddie Fo XXX

"It may be the music, film, clothing, or whatever. I'm driven just to be the best at it. I'm trying to operate on the highest level I can."
-Jay-Z

What Is Drive?

drive (dr v) *v.* **drove,** (dr v) **driv·en,** (dr v n) **driv·ing, drives** *v. tr.*

1. **To push, propel, or press onward forcibly; urge forward:** *drove the horses into the corral.*
2. **To repulse or put to flight by force or influence:** *drove the attackers away; drove out any thought of failure.*
3. **To guide, control, or direct** (a vehicle).
4. **To convey or transport in a vehicle:** *drove the children to school.* To traverse in a vehicle: *drive the freeways to work.*
5. **To supply the motive force or power to and cause to function:** *Steam drives the engine.* **To cause or sustain, as if by supplying force or power:** "The current merger mania is apparently driven by an urge... to reduce risk or to exploit opportunities in a very rapidly changing business environment" (Peter Passell).
6. **To compel or force to work, often excessively:** "Every serious dancer is driven by notions of perfection perfect expressiveness, perfect technique" (Susan Sontag).
7. **To force into or from a particular act or state:** *Indecision drives me crazy.*
8. **To force to go through or penetrate:** *drove the stake into the ground.*
9. **To create or produce by penetrating forcibly:** *The nail drove a hole in the tire.*
10. **To carry through vigorously to a conclusion:** *drove home his point; drive a hard bargain.*

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Drive is the fuel that carries human beings forward. Once you have discovered your Purpose, you will discover that there is a source of energy that expands within you. What is this energy? It's not motivation. Motivation is temporary. The renewed energy in you is what we are calling drive. The Hiphop Driven Life is a life in which your Divine Purpose creates a drive inside of you to be Hiphop to the fullest. When you have drive, you feel absolutely invincible and unstoppable. We have overcome many setbacks and obstacles on our path of Self-mastery. It is our drive that keeps us moving toward the light of our Destiny. When you discover drive within yourself, bad days aren't so bad anymore and good days become heavenly days. When you have drive, you are pulled by the belief that you will complete your mission on this earth Against All Odds.

Sometimes the events in our lives that we thought were the worst end up driving us to the ultimate successes in life. When we are working toward a meaning that is beyond our Selfishness and affects the greater good, then we tap into unlimited resources of Spiritual renewal. When we are serving others for the Divine Purpose of eliminating human suffering, our hearts feel lighter and our Spirit state is higher. A life driven by Hiphop needs no explanation. You see it. You feel it. You taste it. You smell it. You hear it. You intuit it. You are it. No questions, doubts, or fears.

"Destroy these devils within your body and your soul and you will have no other choice but to go the right path. Stop killing each other, black on black, black on Latino; we gotta come together with love."

-Ghostface Killah of Wu-Tang Clan

What is Providence?

prov·i·dence \Prov"i*dence\, n. [L. providentia: cf. F. providence. See Provident, and cf. Prudence.]

1. The act of providing or preparing for future use or application; a making ready; preparation.
Providence for war is the best prevention of it. --Bacon.
2. Foresight; care; especially, the foresight and care which God manifests for his creatures; hence, God himself, regarded as exercising a constant wise prescience.
The world was all before them, where to choose Their place of rest, and Providence their guide. --Milton.
3. (Theol.) A manifestation of the care and superintendence which God exercises over his creatures; an event ordained by Divine direction.
He that hath a numerous family, and many to provide for, needs a greater providence of God. --Jer. Taylor.

Source: *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*
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Until one is committed, there is hesitancy,
The chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness
Concerning all acts of initiative and creation
There is one elementary Truth,
The ignorance of which kills countless ideas
And splendid plans:
That the moment one commits oneself,
Then Providence moves too.
All sorts of things occur to help one
That would otherwise have never occurred.
A whole stream of events issues from the decision,
of unforeseen incidents and meetings,
and material assistance
which no man could have dreamt would have come his way
I have a deep respect for one of Goethe's couplets:
"Whatever you can do, or dream you can – begin it.
Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it."

*-W.N. Mur*ray

If you have been through a lot in your life, situations where you thought for sure you wouldn't make it, but you did; you probably questioned whether God is guiding you. The answer is…yes, God is watching you and guiding you! We call this guidance Providence. When we make an effort to live according to the essential aspect of our inner being, we are inviting Providence into our life. Sometimes acting on faith and moving into the unknown is a scary thought. Sometimes facing danger, violence, or crisis is equally paralyzing. This is when Providence kicks in. Until you will die for your Divine Purpose to carry it out, the Light of Providence won't save you. Providence is reserved for the truly committed! You should not foolishly chase the possibility of death, but you should not be afraid to move toward your Destiny. When you have Purpose and drive, Providence is sure to follow. Let's examine the importance of time and states of being in regard to acting on faith.

Are you alive now? Obviously you are if you are reading this book. If the deceased are looking down on our work as we manifest on Earth, hey, they will join in the fun! Since you are alive, there is only one moment you should focus on. Forget about the past. The past doesn't equal the future. Forget about the future, it is not here yet. Your past is already dead, and your future is not yet born. Think about **NOW**. Now is about being. You can be what you wanna be right now. How, you might ask? It all involves the Truth that you are nothing more than the states of mind, body, and soul that you express at any given moment.

There is a difference between events and states. External of our bodies, we experience a series of events. These are the daily occurrences that we deal with every day. The great thing is that our inner world is experienced as states. These states are our emotions, instincts, thought processes, and intuition. The higher level of these states represent our level of being, which we also call awareness. It is when you separate between events (your outer world) and states (your inner world) that you know how life really works. Your quality of life is more about your inner states as you live now than where you live or what your environment is. Remember, you are just as much Spirit as you are flesh. You cannot always manipulate outer events to achieve success. It is often more convenient to manipulate your inner states of being. Increasing your commitment to living on Purpose with drive and conviction makes your level of being much higher at any given point in time. This energy is reflected in an aware, abundant, peaceful existence. Regardless of what goes on around you, when you begin living in a higher state of being, you are following **The North Star™.** A light will begin to shine within your Self. People of all sorts will be drawn to your light. Providence is the continual glow of that Star within you no matter what happens. The North Star is……..Providence…. which is Hiphop.

The Star symbolizes your current level of being, your present situation or circumstances. Your quality of life is related to state of mind and not time. Victory and defeat; prosperity and poverty; and success and failure are determined by the highest level of intensity and glow of the Star within you.

Are you aware of the high levels of Hiphop inside of you? Your Hiphop lifestyle, including you're blessings within the H-L AW, (Health Love Awareness and Wealth) in your surroundings are not determined by the external outer world. These blessings come in proportion to your level of inner being. It is impossible to have a very dim star on the inside, and have all the joys of success on the outside. It is impossible to have a cold dark heart on the inside and have a life that is shining beautifully on the outside.

How do you reach a high level of being right now? Easy, you have to do what you love, get yourself in a peak state of mind, and have gratitude for all the great things in your life. One of the reasons Hiphop is becoming a global Kulture is that the Self-expression within the lifestyle is unrestricted and unlimited. No matter what your skill is, you can flip it and make it fly as a Hiphoppa. You can express any of Hiphop's 9 elements, and any additional elements Hiphop soon may create. As Hiphop evolves, you increase levels of consciousness within your own mind. Increasing consciousness leads to a peak. state of mind.

If your happiness and fulfillment has more to do with what you focus on and how you are living, then you have liberation. Expanding the Light within you is a matter of aligning as many thoughts, behaviors, and actions in your life with the Infinite Intelligence of the Universe. You then begin to expand your divinity, the core of your essential make up as a human being. Instead of a bestial animalistic behavior, you begin to display a behavior that is noble, honorable, and effervescent. To be elementary, you are light Spirited. You've seen soda or beer poured into a glass. The same hold's true for Alka Seltzer. Any liquid that transfers to a gaseous state has effervescence. Likewise, when you are in a peak. state, the function of your mind, body, and soul are one, causing your mind to vibrate at higher levels of consciousness. As a result, you bubble and overflow with Spirit! This can be achieved expressing any of Hiphop's 9 elements.

Finally, when you take time to be grateful about the simple things in life, you become more open to the abundance of all good. Your life itself is success. When you are grateful in the here and now, you end up in a higher level of being automatically, by the function of formless substance and Universal law. In other words, you are not focused on your lowest thoughts, you are focused on the beauty of your highest thoughts. You are focused on the Supreme Being, your Most High Creator, which is ultimate bliss. Listed below are the varying degrees of intensity with which the North Star of Hiphop shines within us:

I know I CAN.....BE what I wanna BE!

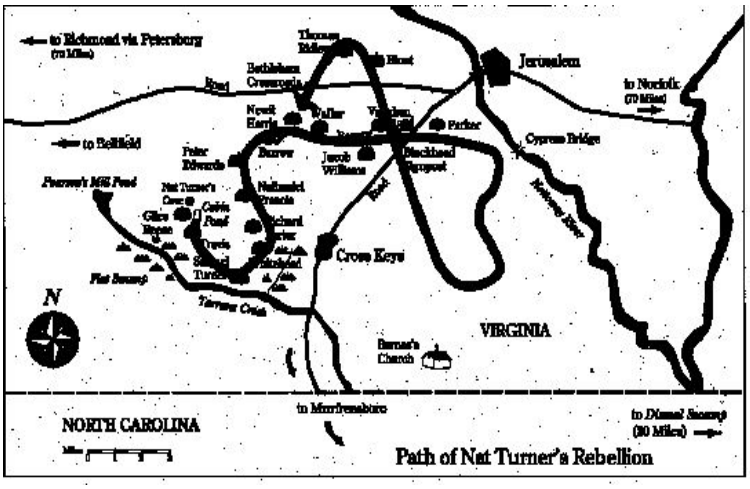
Divinity Pure invincibility. The illustrious glistening Shine! Effervescence from within. Driven from within. Guided by Hiphop. The Force is with you. Senses intuition. Free from all needs and gives Selfless service to others. Experiences no resistance. Everything is Everything. Wisdom prevails and manifests through Spirit!	**Conscious and Awake** **(State of Self-Realization)**
Leadership Accepts the good with the bad. Peaceful to all. Self-disciplined with personal power. Lives a life of detachment and non-judgment. Accepts Truth. No shame, no blame.	
Love Disciple of unconditional giving and forgiveness. Begins to appreciate non-violence and non judgment; harmlessness. Imagines higher being.	**Awakening** **(Adult Stages)**
Awareness Seeks synergy and win-win situations. Learns to open up third eye vision, visualizes living better, more peacefully, and has a sight for victory over the streets! Expresses feelings openly. Uses RIGHT knowledge, wisdom, and overstanding to think through situations.	
Selfish Criticizes others constantly. Judges others. Makes excuses for failures. Can't shake addictive habits. Temperamental and reactive.	**Brainwashed Neanderthal** **Leviathan/Sleep** **(Child Stages)**
Security Lives in fear. Defensive. Worries. Jealous. Complains. Keeps miserable company. Tries to impress others or use people to get ahead.	
Survival Violent. Territorial. Animal. Gorilla pimpin'. Controls by intimidation and threats of physical harm.	

The most important question in your life is how much Light is shining from within you? What level of being do you manifest day in and day out, from moment to moment? Are you living according to your Divine Purpose? The more habits that you have on a daily basis that resemble a dim star or a bright star, become your true level of being. It's o.k. if in the past, you have expressed habits of lower levels of being. In life you have chosen your current level of being, whether consciously or unconsciously. You can also choose to increase your level of being at any moment. The choice is truly yours.

Before you can shine any brighter around people you know, your surroundings, your neighborhood, your community or the world; you have to let go of the old habits that do not represent your Divine Purpose. You must leave the shore of ignorance and enter into the waves of awareness; setting sail toward your ultimate vision in life. It is not always easy to shine brighter and brighter on the world's surface. Hatas, cynics, sellouts, pirates, and Judas' will always be in the picture. Just because envy, greed, and jealousy exist, doesn't mean you don't have the stamina to deal with it coming at you directly. Overcome your obstacles. The unknown frightens most people. The uncertainty and insecurity of not knowing how to survive keeps people with very dim stars in their bodies. We all have stars, some people just choose to let their stars remain dim. The only way to shine brighter is to embrace change and take a risk. You have to plan your escape and make an effort to take your ass back to Africa (metaphorically or literally) like Marcus Garvey wanted to do. You can follow The North Star across the turbulent, chaotic waves, as you sail your

way to victory over the streets and end up in the United States of Africa….that's right, The United States of Africa!!

Planning Your Escape



http://www.millersv.edu/~tweis/fall98/272/turner/Nat_Turner.html

Do you have a plan for your Self? If you don't have a plan, then someone views you as a statistic and has an agenda aimed at your stereotypical, categorical, mundane lifestyle. If you are boxed into a category of living, someone has you marked for your own ruin. In South Hampton, VA, do you think that Nat Turner had a Purpose, drive, providence, and a plan? Could he have executed any better and lived to tell about his revolt? Regardless, of how well he planned, there was a larger reason and meaning for his actions to cause an uprising and revolt against slave captors. Likewise, you should have a Purpose, reason, and deeper meaning as to why you are a human being here on this Earth. Your Purpose does not have to be complicated, but it must deeply touch you and give you a feeling of clarity and joy.

Over the years, elitist thinking and greed for power has created a veil over the interconnectedness of all things. Particularly, in the United States, consumerism and the rat race has caused many people to lose a deep sense of Purpose. When everyone's activity is fueling the economy, many people do not feel their lifestyle is worthy of respect, honor, or even admiration. A typical J-O-B forces individuals to sacrifice personal motivations, for the select few who run a company. Following the agendas of a boss each day to get a pay check may or may not provide an individual with a sense of Purpose. After all, some jobs may really give a person a reason to live. Unfortunately, many do not. In this case, it becomes important that individuals plan their escape. You must plan your escape. If time is money and you need money, give yourself time to discover your Purpose and your value Spiritually, financially, and mentally will be absolutely priceless.

We must not overcomplicate the process of learning to think outside the box. The bottom line is to begin thinking for your SELF and no one else. Discovering your Divine Purpose is about getting back to who you naturally are inside. The nature of your life has nothing to do with labels and titles.

For example, if you naturally like to draw and paint and you are highly skilled, you most likely will feel a deep sense of Purpose touching the lives of other people with your drawing or painting. If you are in school studying engineering and you are only doing so because you think one day it will provide you with a nice paycheck, there is no true fulfilling Spiritual Purpose and such a profession would leave you empty inside.

You must expose yourself to all types of activities. The ones that come to you with the most ease and enjoyment should be developed. The great thing about Purpose is that your purpose will somehow connect with the lives of other people. To plan your escape from the tightly bound shackles of misery or mediocrity, you will need to have a big enough reason why this is important to you or other people. Wanting money, cars, homes, and clothes is simply not going to provide you with enough drive. Material items won't help your Spirit animate your body, as it encounters the setbacks and pain of the Universal initiation process. Tangible objects cannot uncover your Divine Purpose.

Mother Nature is the doorway home. All material possessions we have now are merely an extension from nature. The healing process of your soul, character, and quality of living will come when you recognize the beautiful natural, peaceful you. Nature is still alive in us making our heart beat and our blood pump. However, we keep devaluing our natural selves by giving in to the temptations of artificial non-meaningful, habits, behaviors and lifestyles. Acting is a beautiful thought provoking art form. Movies, T.V. and videos are all interesting vehicles to express art. Most people aren't living on PURPOSE, they are living on ACT – SEE – DENT. Images are promoted by elitist, greed driven people, who have a lust for money and power. Most people "ACT" on what they "SEE," putting a "DENT" into their Self-image. Their life becomes one gigantic ACT – SEE - DENT waiting to happen. The body of your Self-image can only take so many dents before it is smashed to bits and pieces. Once your own Self-image is destroyed, you are finished. A blind follower lets the visible material world determine his or her Self-worth, hence an externally driven motivation to live.

People who observe their own personal inner nature live on Purpose. On target, and on a path to enlightenment, riches of the mind, body, and soul. Such a person is never distracted by false hype or stereotypes. We encourage you to be such a person and to be your natural Self. Be aware of all that goes on externally but also choose to not participate if it does not fulfill your mission or Purpose in life.

For most young adults, puberty is a time of heightened imagination. With some guidance and direction, a young man or woman can guide his or her Self into mental, physical, or Spiritual states that reveal a Purposeful path. Sadly, at this age, when young people should be set free, they are often restricted. As young people, we should be able to explore our sense of Purpose freely. Many of us are still supported financially by family and fall victim to the wishes of the family or parents. Many of us have no support financially and some give in to pressures to make fast money illegally violating our own sense of Self. These cycles result in a cycle of colleges, incarceration, meaningless jobs, and death. Instead of giving children a false sense of hope, letting youth believe that to be young is to be stupid; to be young all one must do is study, get good grades, and party; adults should be encouraging the youth to envision the foundation and blueprint of the life a young person imagines living.

The envisioned foundation becomes the plan. We plan our work, then work our plan. When nothing is planned, the only result is misery, tragedy, and death. These words you are now reading are part of our plan and Purpose as Nightjohn. Our writing is the skill we used to present our inner being. The Purposeful manifestation of our vision is eloquent information to help you see the power of living on Purpose. You reading this right now is a cause set in motion that could completely change your Destiny for the better. In planning your escape, we simultaneously are helping you plan your escape. Plan thoroughly and plan with wishes, dreams, ambition, vision, aspiration, and the killer instinct. As stated by emcee AZ, on his album Final Call, "You can't be what you're not, but with a little determination and dedication you can be what you want."

Begin by writing out a Divine Purpose statement for yourself. Your statement should not be too complicated, yet it should carry enough emotional weight to move you to action. For those of you who do not like to write, please do. Writing gives your mind direction and helps you to organize your thought clearly and see your thought outside of your Self. Once you see your thought on paper, you then feel the obligation to live out that thought. Anything you write should be taken very seriously and should reflect your mind properly. Here are our mission statements:

Adebayo Alabi Olorunto a.k.a. "Bayo" – My Divine Purpose is to communicate messages of peace and prosperity from the force of inner love with a mission to touch lives, inspire people to be outstanding, and help others live according to their own Divine Purpose; to help people uncover their Self-worth and inner wealth.

Arnett Kale Powell a.k.a. "Divine" My Divine Purpose is to provide and live to the fullest capacity. To give the world a new direction and a new way of life. To make a huge change in society that gains the respect from God and all people. To be able to give what I'm receiving to God, the world, family, friends, my woman, and my future kids. To gain bliss and divinity. To fulfill my passion to do what I was born to do.

My Divine Purpose Statement

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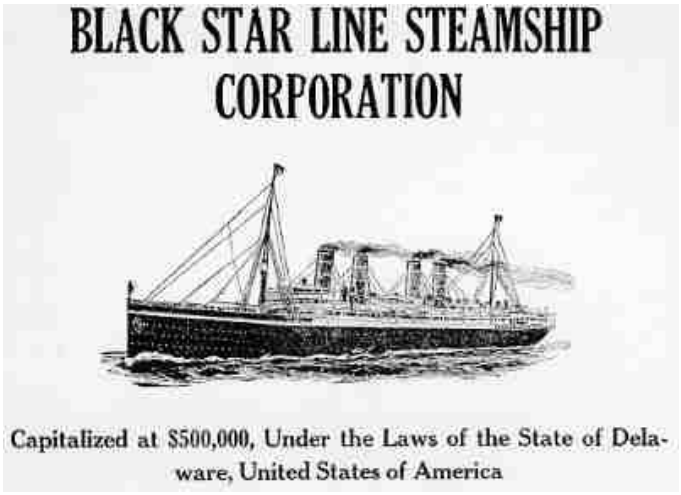
Leaving the shore



Black Star Line Steamship Corporation flyer
Online Photo Source: http://www.isop.ucla.edu/mgpp/photo04.htm

Once you have planned your escape you must prepare to leave the shore. Once you have begun to think outside the box to aim for your Purpose, you will now be ready to use your words to create and write the story of your life. This is an adventure you get to choose. The words in your mind begin taking physical form when ink and paper is introduced to your thoughts. Your Divine Purpose and quest to live a free life begin with a conscious choice to leave the shores of mediocrity and move toward your own unique Divine Purpose crossing the ocean of difficulty using outstanding peak. performance.

Decide on how you plan to achieve goals that will be Purposeful, meaningful, and fulfilling. Sometimes the first step into the unknown is the most difficult step. Perhaps you must leave friends and family behind, quit a job, move to a new location, jump on stage in front of an audience for the first time, or face fear itself in its many forms. This step is symbolically like leaving the shore (your comfort zone) and entering the ocean (the unknown). Again and again, we've heard that a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. Do we really use it, or is it just a cliché phrase we say to sound cool. As Nightjohn, we not only use this

phrase, we ARE a first step for many people, because we took that first step and we are sharing our struggle with you. We are real, just like you. We left the shore just like you….and Afrika Bambaataa, DJ Kool Herc, Grandmaster Flash, KRS-ONE, Big Daddy Kane, and Rakim all left the shore at one point too. This is your chance to decide on your life mission, your legacy, and your quality of life. Don't let mental slavery keep you captive. Fuck being a follower. Walk side by side with all leaders.

Obstacles are going to pop up after any decision you make. How much drive are you willing to generate within your Self? How determined are you to live the life of your dreams? Are you determined enough to let nothing stop you? Are you intense enough to keep your head up, when all around you doubt you? Are you ready to brilliantly shine? Who are you to be outstanding? Who are you not to be outstanding? Your brain, mind, body, and soul is no better or worse than anyone's on this planet.

A.K.'s story serves as an example of perseverance, endurance, and commitment; especially in the phase of leaving the shore of mediocrity into the open sea of human potential. His contribution to The Hiphop Driven Life, is a serious component of our success. Remember, I gave him Purpose and he gave me Purpose in return. We decided to live in Maryland, and we thank our Creator everyday for our health and well-being. We take nothing for granted because our lives were almost deleted the day A.K. was to move from Indiana to Maryland.

Once upon a time when I had already written our plan to help him move to Maryland, so we could build our businesses, I had been laying "low", working at "Lowes" to learn about home improvement for my interest in real estate investing. We needed to find him a job, a comfortable place for us both to live. A.K. had to take multiple tests throughout the summer of 2004 to accomplish his goal of graduating high school one year early. He blew past the miniscule, weak., mundane curriculum of Snider High School in Ft. Wayne, IN. He completed all requirements for his Senior classes in one summer. He only went to high school for three years and graduated one year early with his diploma; an outstanding accomplishment.

To complicate our situation more, A.K. was issued a subpoena to court for him to testify as a witness in the trial of his x-girlfriend who had been molested by her father. Because A.K. was the first person she felt comfortable telling, he became a key witness in the prosecutors case. In addition to our stress of finding him a job, we had to somehow take time from our schedules to come back to Indiana for three days: October 4th, 5th, and 6th. Our ultimate goal was to have him completely moved to Maryland by November in 2004.

I began working at Lowes in late July 2004. I drew up the plans for A.K.'s move to Maryland in early August and we always talked on the phone daily. Our plans were almost thwarted slightly in August as I indulged in the art of seduction with a particular woman I met at work who shall remain nameless for her own benefit. It's just real life. Plans are always adjusted when it comes to the dance of sexual chemistry and love. It's a natural law. Nevertheless, I made sure that A.K. was doing his part and I needed to generate income to survive on. My days are always filled. However, working in the paint department at Lowes was the perfect brainless job for the meanwhile. Luckily the store manager was a person I had run into a few times before when I was making my rounds in real estate circles.

By the time early September rolled around, A.K. was close to being done with his school testing. He was nearly ready to graduate. I began amping up my efforts of looking for apartments and thinking about possible jobs for him. I kept my eyes and ears open at Lowes and found my opening. Another employee mentioned that the store manager needed to hire a lot of people. Without hesitating, I knew opportunity when I saw it. There was an opening in the electrical department, and I knew A.K. was good with that sort of thing. I called him and told him I could drive to Indiana on Friday Sept. 10th, and we could come back on Friday Sept. 11th. I had only two days off from work, Friday and Saturday. A.K. was able to talk to his teachers Friday morning to make sure he was clear of all his tests and that he had officially graduated. By the time he told me, I was out the door on my way to Ft. Wayne before he could even hang up the phone.

With my Holy Bible on the dashboard, I was on my way to Indiana in my Honda Accord. Keep in mind: I had still been staying in a small room in a house, I had a false $60,000 tax lien filed against me by the IRS as a result of my fathers involvement on wall street, I had debts up to $23,000 from my real estate business, deals that caved through, and move to Maryland. I had barely any money in the bank, and my Geico car insurance had lapsed ….yet again.

The few checks I had made at Lowes up until that point were for rent, food, and gas. Thankfully, my Honda Accord had been holding up, and I had the oil changed not to long before the trip. I was fresh, and ready to go. My trip all the way up to Indiana went well and I stopped only a few times. I arrived around 10 p.m. in Ft. Wayne. It was a blessing to finally see A.K. live in the flesh after two whole years. We kept our dream and vision alive by talking on the phone for two years.

A.K. was brave and courageous for finally making up his mind to leave the comfortable shore of his home environment. This decision had to be made so fast. We wanted my financial position to be better originally, but we had no choice; events were unfolding and the opportunity was there. It was difficult for him to leave his mother, sister, girlfriend, grandfather, friends, and other family members so abruptly, but because we had been planning for so many years, he had prepared for the moment. When the preparation met opportunity, he was ready to be a man and live on his own and move nine hours away from his hometown with only a high school diploma at the age of eighteen. He did all this for a job he may or may not get. He put his faith in a brotherly cousin who is intelligent but on shaky financial ground. It takes a true warrior Spirit to be able to maintain a vision, even with so many obstacles.

We awoke early on Saturday morning September 11, 2004. It was a beautiful day in Ft. Wayne, IN. The sun was shining. It was a bittersweet time for everyone at A.K.'s house. A.K. had been the man of the house all this time giving everybody guidance and now he was leaving. His mother and girlfriend were especially sad. We assured them that everything would be o.k. and that these changes were for the benefit of all of us in the long run. We packed up the remainder of his belongings in my Honda, and my Aunt Ellen (A.K.'s mother) asked me about insurance, and I told her it had lapsed but we'd be fine. My uncle Stephen had also mentioned how well my car had been holding up and how nice it still looked. We were all in good Spirits, nothing in our way at all. Before we left, we wanted to say what's up to our grandfather and at least let him know we were in the area.

We began driving from Ft. Wayne, IN to Syracuse, IN. Of course we were taking all these small roads of course to get there. We came to a flashing red and a stop sign in the middle of all this farmland. I remember looking right, then looking left, then proceeding through the intersection…….. ssssssscreeeeeetchhhh…WWWHH AAMMMMM……..CRASSSHHHHH!!!!!!! We were hit on our passenger side of the car it seemed with a double impact!!! Almost like a T-bone the other car hit us in our right rear and angled to hit the front as it swerved off to the side. The first thing that flashed through my mind was that, "OH SHIT!! I can't believe this happened…RIGHT NOW!! NO!!!" Then I asked, "A.K. are you alright!?!?!" Our car had swerved to the shoulder of the road perpendicular to the direction we were going in the intersection. A.K. said that he was o.k. We were both shaken and our hearts jumping out of our chest due to the collision. I knew it would be discouraging for me to see the damage of my car. When I got out and looked it was even worse than I thought. It was totaled.

We saw the other drivers get out. We thank God no one was hurt. The other driver was a young white woman in her late teens or early twenties. She kept screaming, "Why didn't they stop!?!" She and her passenger were hysterical. We were two young black males in the middle of Indiana corn fields and a blonde damsel in distress screaming it was our fault. There were no witnesses. We knew it wasn't a good situation. Instead of going over to her and arguing, we stayed cool and eventually another couple of cars stopped and someone called the police.

A.K. and I were concerned that my lack of insurance, previous accident, and unpaid speeding tickets would put us in a negative situation with the police officer who stopped us. It was a sunny day. I remember looking up at the sun and asking God what this all means, and what we have to do to live our lives in peace. It felt like since I turned 18 years old, my life had been full of events that prevented me from reaching my full potential. No matter how many times I have been knocked down or faced failure, I always get up.

That is my power. My car was my last valuable material possession. The car had enough monetary value to keep us moving toward our goals, and in the blink of an eye, it was gone. I was devastated. I wanted to cry. No tears would come out though. It was almost like I was finally numbed to crisis. I finally mastered my emotion toward crisis. I felt no pain. I was just grateful and thankful to God, that our lives were spared yet again. There was not one scratch on A.K.'s passenger side door. His leg was bumped a little. Neither of us had one scratch on our bodies from the accident.

My car was damaged with a deep dent in the back right side and in the front right side. The wheel was visibly o.k. but the front fender and blinker were wiped out. The engine was slightly smashed in on the right side. It looked like we would still be able to drive the car.

Finally, when the Indiana State police officer pulled up, we were ready to face the confrontation. He walked over to the white women first, which kind of made us uneasy. Then he came over to us and told us to have our license and registration ready to show to him. He then, proceeded to go back and talk to the white women. In the meanwhile, I made sure I fumbled around in my passenger side and that I pulled out my "King James Self-Defense Dashboard Bible." Sure enough, the officer came along side our passenger door and I made sure that as I turned from the car, I allowed the crystal sunlight to glisten off the gold words on the cover which read: **HOLY BIBLE**. I slowly pulled my registration from the middle of the bible and made sure that the Psalms flipped open so he'd see that it was in the middle of the Bible, and that we had been reading it on our trip.

He asked us about our Maryland plates and we told him we were on our way to see our grandfather and I was visiting A.K. to pick him up and that's why our car was packed full of his belongings. I saw the officer's eyes glimpse the Bible slightly but I wasn't absolutely certain he internalized it. Either way, it was my last effort at defense from the cruelty that can easily turn against a black man's favor when facing the police.

He suggested we pick up our pieces of the car and see if our car was drivable. He then walked back to his car and began looking up my information. I was concerned that he'd see my previous violations and find out I had no insurance. It hurt me that my debts were causing me to be almost at odds with the law. All I had done for the most of my life was improve myself and be a great man. I kept wondering why my effort to be a better ME was now putting US in a position of danger with the law. Money for me has always been a Catch 22.

If I'd enslave myself by working a J-O-B which I hated, I'd have money but no peace of mind and happiness. On the other hand, if I continued working toward my personal visions, Purpose, and goals, unless my entrepreneurial wheels touch ground miraculously and I earn income; my debts would keep piling up and if I couldn't pay certain vehicle expenses: Now I become at odds with the law.

This is how the law is used to trap people in poverty. It is never stated by elitist vultures, but we have seen first hand that not having money does put you in a position of vulnerability to upholding certain vehicular laws, and if you try to make moves in an automobile to accomplish your desires and you can't pay driving expenses, you will be at odds with the law. I was thinking deeply about all of this as this officer was most likely doing a background check on me. A few minutes turned into an eternity for us. We sat under the hot Indiana sun wondering why us children of the sun must be forced to live this way, in the United States, under the influence of lawmakers who violate the law themselves so often.

Finally, the officer returned with his verdict. He told us there would be no citations issued. Providence. He told us that because we had a stop sign we would be car number 1 and the other would be car number 2. In other words, we were more at fault than they were (which was bullshit). We were more thankful that we were not falsely accused of something, handcuffed, physically roughed up, and/or searched that we didn't even bother to get the insurance information of the other party. We believed it was their fault. In the situation we were in, with the other drama I had surrounding my insurance and previous accident, we just wanted to make it out of that situation alive with no unnecessary conflicts.

We were able to drive away from the accident but we heard a noise in the wheel, so we questioned whether we would be able to continue our trip or not. Now our mission was almost stopped completely. I told A.K. we need to stop and think for a minute before we just go straight to our grandfather's house. He's over 80 years old and I didn't want to just show up and scare him with bad news. Also, I was concerned that the worries of A.K.'s mother would multiply even more if she knew that we were in this accident.

Our family had already been so negative toward us for the most part. I thought for sure they would try to prevent A.K. from moving to Maryland with me. My mother helped me get that car originally and she had been causing some serious turmoil in the family in regard to our grandfather helping other family members and being stressed by family problems. I didn't want to add fuel to the fire. For the most part, I left her out of our decisions for A.K. to move to Maryland, because sometimes family and friends are the worst enemy of your Divine Purpose. Sometimes, they simply don't see your vision and do everything they can to make you conform to their lower standards.

We stopped at a gas station and thought about our situation. I really thought about pressing on toward Maryland despite the damages to the car. I also thought about just surrendering and telling everyone what happened. I didn't want our vision to be cut short. I also knew our safety was a concern. A.K brought up the point that if something happened to us in this damaged car it would be even worse for our family, and they would be upset that we didn't tell them. I thought to myself that there was really nothing they could do to stop us from continuing with our plans, so I told A.K. to go ahead and call his mother. Luckily, she understood and he explained that we were being responsible and it wasn't our fault. We drove to our grandfather's house. The only negativity was them calling us young fools for not getting the insurance information from the white women. Oops. We were so wrapped up with handling the police officer that we forgot. We left the next day in A.K.'s old 1989 Oldsmobile. We would not be denied.

Many people have been through far more dangerous and life threatening situations than us. Even from young ages of 5 years old, some kids face murder and tragedy from war in the streets before they reach puberty. The moral of our story is that the challenges we all face are tests to our commitment to our life's Divine Purpose. It doesn't matter what it is, just how you handle it. Keep moving when disaster strikes, or stay in solitude until you know which move is the best to make, then move.

Decide how you plan on achieving your goals. Once you decide to take a leap of faith, keep your common sense with you. Think of the consequences or costs of your project. Think of the possible options you have if something goes wrong. Anticipate how other people may interfere with your plan. Your goals are not impossible to achieve. Anything is possible. The question is what are you willing to sacrifice in order to hit your result targets. If you plan well, you can at least provide a pathway that will be rewarding along the way.

As we explained with A.K.'s trip to Maryland, any time you make decisions obstacles pop up. To decide means to cut off your chosen path from any other option. When you finally decide you are committed to a particular Purpose, there will be immediate obstacles, challenges, and difficulties that seem to come from nowhere on that path. Expect them. Prepare for the hardships you will face. Make sure you stay away from the mainstream mentality that everything comes easy, fast, and with little to no pain. The struggle and pain is o.k. to embrace. Your character is built by you successfully overcoming struggle and pain. When you approach your duty to yourself and humanity, do not expect that there will be no bumps in the road. Instead, dig deep to find the courage within yourself to be yourself. The courage you use to face your journey is more important than the journey you even decide to take.

Strive to be an authentic person, not a superficial person. Sometimes quality takes time to build. Sometimes the best is saved for last. It would be better for you to build your skillz in your chosen path and be a master of your Self, than it would to follow some weak prescription for how your life should be, according to the agendas of others. When you are entering the unknown seas of your vast reservoir of potential, it is important that you not forget that you will need something to carry you through the turbulent waters of your own Self doubts, fears, and worry. This is where your choice of building character is the most evident. You must remember that once you begin living your life on Purpose, there is no turning back whatsoever. You may chart your course differently and adjust your path, but you will not ever be a lame mediocre sucker lying on the beaches of mental bondage. Word.

Poetry and ritual evoke the world behind words. Poeticize your presence and your livelihood. Your life is poetic. The way we communicate with ourselves and the way we communicate with the outside world can be a reflection of our creativity or our stupidity. The choice is ours. Our own perception is the only reality that truly exists. Remember that as you prepare to embark on an inner journey that the map does not always equal the territory. What you visualize and see in your mind as far as your Self-image is more important than what people actually think of you. There is no reason for you to be concerned about what people think of you. What people think of you is their opinion. Opinions are the cheapest commodity on earth. Everyone has some opinion. Everyone thinks their particular opinion is right. Follow the opinion of our own instinct. Follow the opinion of your own heart. Follow the opinion of your gut. Don't give up on the internal force that will guide you toward your Destiny.

As you begin the process of shaking off your meaningless labels placed on you by socialization and society, it is important that you find ways to re-create yourself. You must realize that every decision you've made up until this point in your life could have been from the influence of an ignorant parent, friend, or relative. The life you are living now could be the result of choices that you did not even consciously make. You didn't choose your name, place of birth, or your upbringing. However, these choices by other people have affected who you are in one way or another. If you want to expand your identity, it is wise to find ways to re-invent or re-create yourself. One simple way we do this as Hiphoppas is by re-naming ourselves. If you were given an empowering name as a child, maybe living up to your name serves you. If your name reminds you of being a descendant of slaves, then maybe starting with a fresh slate will enhance your Self image. As long as you are aware that you call the shots in your own life and no one else, re-creating yourself will make your whole representation of yourself congruent with your Divine Purpose and highest values.

We often do whatever it takes to survive. How often do we go the extra mile to truly live a life of Purpose? When you have created a path for yourself, the force is with you. Love is the force. Love is the idea that you are going to use your mind, body, and soul to move forward through life, to increase the quality of your life and the lives of others. Love is often confused with passion and sex. Aside from the common concept of love, love is a drive, a power that is unexplainable. If it weren't for love in all it's forms, as human beings we would destroy the world and ourselves.

There is only one love and one Divine Purpose for YOU. Sometimes giving and receiving love is the trigger to the gateway of your abundance and expansion as a human being. The ability to express love of someone, something, someplace, or some idea is a foundation for your Purposeful direction. If Malcolm X didn't love revolution, where would we be? If Michael Jordan didn't love basketball, would the game be the same? If Pele didn't love soccer, would he be the greatest player in the world? If Ghandi didn't love his people, would he have been able to lead his people to withstand British hatred and violence? If Bob Marley didn't love Jah and Rastafari, how many people in the world would not have been touched by his reggae music? If KRS-ONE didn't love Hiphop, how many Hiphoppas today would be brave and courageous enough to say "I AM HIPHOP!" If Tupac didn't love children born in the poverty and chaos in hoods across America, how many soldiers would advance his concept of "T.H.U.G.L.I.F.E." If Nas didn't love writin' lyrics, would rap be the same? If Russell Simmons and P. Diddy didn't love social climbing and striking deals where would Def Jam and Bad Boy be? If Alicia Keys didn't love singing, how would we know "a woman's worth?" If Bruce Lee didn't love martial arts and Chinese culture, would there be Jeet Kune Do? If Tony Robbins didn't love helping people, there would never have been 25 million "Personal Power" audio tapes sold throughout the world. If doctor Ben Carson didn't love human anatomy, how many black children would believe they too could be a surgeon? If Bayo didn't love writing, would this book even exist? If A.K. didn't love making beats, would we even consider making "The Hiphop Driven Life" soundtrack to go along with this book?

If some people didn't love to work on cars, fix computers, fly planes, cook gourmet meals, or practice law and so forth, societies in the world would be limited and stagnant. The variety of people with different Divine Purposes is what makes a civilization. It is the love and devotion toward your activities that separate Purpose from going through the motions.

Although we openly attack the rat race and the workforce, we are more clearly attacking the mentality that such a lifestyle reinforces; a mentality of lethargy, laziness, boredom, and bondage. We promote doing what you LOVE for a living. We promote CHOICE. We promote HOPE. We promote FREEDOM. We promote INTELLIGENCE. Take the word **revolution** and remove the **R** and the **UTION**. What do you have? **EVOL** add **VE** and it's **EVOLVE**. Take **EVOL** and flip it around it becomes **LOVE**.

In the poem "*Niggas are Scared of Revolution*," the Last Poets remind us that revolution is nothing but change. One step beyond change for humans is us coming together through unity to make progress. As revolutionaries we are defying the analytical demonic attacks on the Godlike natural forward evolution of life. We are rebelling against the attacks on the further evolution of human beings. We are progressive. Apparently, our oppressors are driven by power and greed instead of love. When will evil people get enough? Desire begets desire, greed begets greed, and power begets power. The never ending conquest leads to war, death, and human suffering. We are opposing the human beings who are causing wars in the world. We call ourselves Hiphop because we are human beings who promote the forward progress of a Spirit filled life. Progress is change with a Purpose and the Providence of Supreme Being. This is why Tupac made the song "Changes." He was a revolutionary

acting on behalf of LOVE using the source of ALL LOVE as the force that drove him to action! The same goes for Bob Marley and all our other heroes- past, present, and future. Civilized human beings know about some LOVE! Reptile-like, cold blooded demonic worshippers know about WAR! We ain't waitin' for those in power to stop wars. They are greedy and will constantly be at war. We are going to take our peace….NOW! We LOVE Hiphop and we love exposing snakes. At the center of all evolution and all revolution is the force of **LOVE**, no matter how you look at it!! Niccas might be scared of revolution, evolution, and love! Nightjohn's acronym for LOVE is:

L-O-V-E - Living Openly Valuing Eternity

Do you see a pattern? Love of revolution. Love of basketball. Love of soccer. Love of people. Love of reggae. Love of Hiphop. Love of children. Love of business. Love of singing. Love of martial arts. Love of human anatomy. Love of writing. Love of creating beats. Love of careers. The love that people have for what they do is what helps the world continually evolve into what it is becoming. What will the world become as more people discover their own unique Divine Purpose? How do we know!? No one really knows. We can only use our imaginations to visualize the euphoria of less human suffering in the world.

Following your life Purpose is an awakening of your Spirit. Remember your inner Self. Trust your inner voice. Make choices based on your own personal thoughts, rather than meaningless opinions of others. There is nothing wrong with having a Godlike EGO and wanting to uphold higher standards for yourself and others. However, make sure you are balancing it with a Godlike humility to counteract your attitude and also serve others. Maintain both mentalities. Think of your mind as a fortress or castle at the center. Around it, are various walls of defense which very few attackers may get past. Your Spirit is awakened at the core of your Self. Once it is awakened, you know exactly what you want out of this life. You must protect your Divine Purpose like you would the rarest jewel on earth…..because it is! Your only challenge is facing 97% of people who are not doing what they are supposed to be doing. They may want to copy, imitate, threaten, or steal your gem instead of finding their own. Many people are unhappy, regretful, disappointed, lonely, and ashamed of who they are. Your goal is to navigate through your interactions with these people without compromising your life Purpose. The only way you will succeed in meeting your Self-determined targets in life, is that you constantly remind yourself of your larger mission or Purpose. Instead of pushing toward your goals, a Hiphop driven life pulls you toward your goals. You are fascinated by who you are becoming. This is true drive.

We don't watch much M.T.V. (Hence we don't believe in Mo –Ti –Vation). Motivation is superficial and temporary like the channel M.T.V. There is no use to being a pumped up over-enthusiastic motivated idiot. We do watch a lot of D.V.D.'s. (Hence, we do believe in DRIVE, VISION, and DEVOTION.) Drive, Vision, and Devotion is deep and fulfilling like buying your favorite D.V.D. chillin' and watching it over and over again. It is always in your home whenever you want it. Whenever the going gets tough for you, pull out your Divine Purpose statement and read it aloud to yourself. It feels just as good as watching your favorite DVD if not better.

How can you be given life in nature's playground and watch other people be peaceful, happy, and liberated, make money, have great relationships, fulfilling careers, outstanding physical shape, and enlightened Spiritual lives; but sit there and never play for yourself? Get in the game of life and do what you want to do! Don't be afraid to make sacrifices and discipline yourself for a noble and worthy cause such as…..your livelihood. Make a name for yourself at whatever you love. Making progress toward your Destiny is hard work, but it is rewarding work that will make you famous. Your fame will be to the degree of intensity you have toward being outstanding. The more outstanding you are, you will get lavish Spiritual, mental, and physical rewards, not to mention peace of mind. Who cares if it looks like you'll make money from it or not. The bottom line is…..are you living? Remember Ramon in Beat Street! Are you alive!? Furthermore, are you living on Purpose and full of joy, passion, and devotion? Will people benefit from your very existence? Will you change the world? Tupac said, "Will you be the mind to spark the brain that will change the world?" Will you change your city? Will you change your block? Will you change your own attitude? You can only make so many mistakes on planet Earth before it spits you back into eternity. Do something while you are here that only you can do now. There will never be anyone who can tell you what that is. It is up to you in your own heart and mind. If someone tries to tell YOU what your Divine Purpose is, grab your wallet or purse and run for the door!

When you have decided what your Purpose is, and you have committed your Purpose to writing, you are ready to leave the shore and embark on the journey of a lifetime. At this point it's time to say "Fuck it!" and stop giving a fuck about what people think about your life. Do YOU!! Fuck the ignorant people, fuck your non-believing family members, fuck the teachers who keep failing you, (guys) drop the women that dis you, (ladies) get rid of the pimps, players, and scrubs. Set your sails with the goals you have, maintain your vision. Do what you love, stay focused and let THE FORCE of love keep you alive on the vast seas of opportunity. We don't know what your talents, gifts, and skills are. We do know that it takes 10% natural talent and 90% devotion to your growth in that specialized skill. Your devotion, faith, and aspiration will carry you through hardship, as you face the cold world we live in, on the way to totally fulfilling your dreams.

"People, like nails, lose their effectiveness when they lose direction and begin to bend."

-- ***Walte***r Savage Landor

Cross the Atlantic

Have you ever watched the T.V. show Driven on VH-1? Why did they make this show? If you have watched this show, then you are aware of the countless stories of entertainers making their lives outstanding through sometimes seemingly insurmountable odds. The show offers old photos, home video clips and interviews with those who knew the stars before they were stars. If you have not watched this show, go ask somebody about it or watch it yourself. Driven breaks down ideas of how famous entertainers became successes, and through the eyes of those who knew them best, the show explains crucial moments in the development of famous artists. The popular belief is that most stars are driven by only money and fame. The true question for the producers of the show is, "What are driving forces in the artist's life that drove them to be famous?" Interestingly, the producers never interview artists directly. The Hiphop Driven Life, is a book which answers this question for Nightjohn. Not only does it answer this question, it gives others a guide to develop the same drive.

For Janet Jackson to make it as a successful artist she basically had to go through a lot of shit. For Tupac to make it, he had to go through a lot of shit. For Madonna to make it, she had to go through a lot of shit. For Snoop and Dr. Dre to make it, they had to go through a lot of shit. Kanye West was in a car accident just before getting a major record deal. As Nightjohn, call all this shit people go through when pursuing their dreams, "crossing the Atlantic." The only gateway to Self-improvement is difficulty.

Your life is a Universal initiation process from cradle to the grave, from birth to death. Your commitment to your own definition of perfection is tested throughout your whole life. Your mind, body, and soul is like a piece of steel and life is like the hammer banging you into shape until you fit just right into the Universal order of all existence. You are the ship, life is the ocean…..do you see where we are going with this? There are always positive individuals who can help you along the way. For the most part, you will be alone. You will have to search within yourself when you encounter stress and hardship in the world. This initiation process will build your own special character of personality and pride. What doesn't kill you will make you stronger.

Realize that as you move toward your destiny you will be interacting with the natural world differently. You no longer have to react to the demands of everyone and everything that crosses your path. You have the choice to set your sails and direct them. Much like a ship, you will have to constantly check your navigation. Success is a journey that builds upon increments of progress. One beautiful discovery that you may make is that even though you are taking your own path, there will be others who will have a similar Purpose and goals just like yours. Thus, the law of synchronicity is enabled allowing you to match your life energy toward another's congruently and effectively.

The creation of harmony among individuals is what builds relationships between men and women, stable families, homes, communities, and ultimately civilizations. The cooperative effort of you working with others will mean much more for your life than you may think. We have indigenous technology (Spiritual perception) in our minds. In our skill building efforts there are always hardships and difficulties. It is always wise to keep people around who have some positive concept of who your are and what you are trying to accomplish. After you make decisions, soon thereafter you will face obstacles. People are your greatest resource to overcoming those obstacles. Who knows, you may even help people overcome their obstacles at the same time they help you overcome your obstacles. Sometimes all you need is a helping hand and a little more determination.

The delays, setbacks, and challenges are the points in your journey toward liberation that will be the most challenging. Often, as outstanding people, we like to have a sense of control over the events in our lives and our environment. Many of us even know that controlling the thought in our environment is what gives us security. Sometimes despite all our work and efforts, our sense of security collapses and we meet with crisis and misfortune. It is at this point, where we meet our lows, our pain, misery, feelings of inadequacy and defeat, that we must decide for ourselves what this will mean for our lives. We do not have a choice about what happens to us. We do have a choice about what we focus on, the questions we ask ourselves, and how we respond to any chaos or crisis in our lives.

Whether it be material loss, financial debt, incarceration, death, severe injury, or heartbreak; there is always a benefit that we can derive from the painful experience, if we search deep enough within ourselves. We must not asks ourselves: Why is this happening to me? We must ask ourselves: How can I use this situation to make my life better or better the lives of others? Who are you not to suffer? In life, everyone faces some form of suffering? Those who pretend they do not suffer are trying to trick you into you giving them money, again hold your wallet or purse and bounce. Listen to those who can explain their own personal

struggle, hardships, and challenges. More importantly, listen to how they overcome those challenges. Existing on higher and higher levels of understanding and tranquility, requires that you have a superior psychological make up that prevents you from seeing the downside of everything that happens to you. This is the only way to fulfill your dreams. You must persevere beyond the point of wanting to give up. Somehow, when you defy the rigorous process of disaster, you build the Spiritual muscles to live on Purpose. You must cross the Atlantic intact.

Part of building Spiritual muscle is the efficient manipulation of energy? Where are our main sources of electrical energy in our bodies, that's right: In our hearts and brains. Is it safe to say that our minds control our actions? Well, Purpose is the meaning and motivation that we ascribe to actions. A mind of clarity will produce actions of clarity. A mind of chaos has no Purpose, and will produce random actions in random directions. What do you think happens to a person who only does random activities everyday? Exactly, failure, poverty, death, or incarceration. Imagination is more important than knowledge, and we must use our mind to clearly produce images that represent a clear meaning and motivation for our actions. A person who can't even read or write, can still visualize. The poverty stricken man's literacy is creative visualization. We all must organize our thoughts and keep our vision at all times. Otherwise we'll continue to run around in America like chickens with our heads cut off thinking we're free.

Why do many of us as young boys want to be in the NBA or NFL, want record deals, want to be movie stars, artificial rappers, pimps, gangstas, and drug dealers? Simple, these are the images that are implanted in our minds from an early age by who we idolize. Many of us look at these people with money, power, and respect in the United States and want that same money, power, and respect. Why do many young girls want to be in clubs, be models, actresses, and wives to millionaires? These are the images being fed to their psyche.

It has been determined by psychologists that our brains are literally the hardware for our mind. Our mental processes are like the processes of a computer. To continue with this metaphor, the software for our brain is the words, beliefs, information, numbers, values, emotions, and sensory responses we take in. Your hard drive is your long term memory. Your RAM is your short term memory. What programs are you running?

Some of us are booting up every morning to "Close Minded Windows 98"; Negative Outlook 2005; Gloomy Loops 4.1, Nightmare weaver, Wanna be gangsta (Home Edition), Pimpware 98, Fakewalk Recording Studio, Visual Whore Basic!! So many of us are even still running programs of former slave masters and plantation owners such as: Color Complex, Crab Bucket Software, Uncle Tom 1.0, Coons and Minstrels screensaver, Racism 2004, Willie Lynchpad 96, Religious Fanatic Unlimited. Instead of QuickBooks, more of our financial lives look like "Sickbooks 8.0." To make things even more complicated, some people's minds are so overwhelmed and chaotic, that it's almost like popup's and spy ware on a computer!!

What happens to your computer when you download too many programs infected with spy ware and popups, mp3's (M.T.V.'s), MPEG's (B.E.T.'s), & Porn's (Music Videos)? It crashes!! What is happening to the minds of our youth from ages 12-25 in America….They're minds are crashing!! They got too many pop up temptations leading them off the path of their vision. Young people are losing inspiration to pursue Truth, Self-mastery, vision, imagination, and Divine Purpose. The barrage of confusing and misleading messages in our society lead to overwhelm, Self-doubt, feelings of inadequacy, ultimately procrastination, and finally giving up hope….the worst failure of all.

Think of Hiphop drive as a new hard drive that will hold enough space for our vision., dreams, Purpose in life, and goals. Now all you need is Purpose XP (Xtra Precise), Destiny Software, and Divine Vision Deluxe! Re-program your brain!!! You've got to clean out your mind and purify to make your life a masterpiece. The average American citizen nowadays has a multiple number of careers. The world is becoming much more complex. People are acquiring more than one specialized skill. If your brain is running on the old program, then you can only hold 1 gig. If you upgrade to Purpose XP your brain can hold up to 20 gigs. It's all about organizing the thoughts in your mind.

When we were still both living nine hours away from each other, we would talk on the phone constantly. At one point, I, Bayo was working for a real estate investor, writing rhymes, writing books, courting women, and staying physically fit. To say the least, my mind was quickly overloaded. Sometimes our conversations would become so stressful on the phone because of time limitations, that we would have to check ourselves. A lot of the time it was because I just had too much on my mind. Like a true brother, A.K. would tell me that I need to relax and that I should chill and take my mind off of all these activities.

He was the first one to bring up the idea that our minds were like computers. He told me, "It's like your mind is a computer and you have too many programs running all at once! Close some windows man!" A.K. was telling me to close windows in my mind. He just said, "It seems like your thinking about too much, you've got to many processes running in your mind." After we both laughed about that, I realized that it was true. My intensity to succeed reached such a high level that I was maxing my capacity to think!! I decided to take a break after that….shut down and restart later. I went out to clear my mind in nature, had a long night sleep, let my brain's motherboard (Goddess board) cool down. I took the next day off and I felt a lot better. Take care of your mind as if it were a brand new computer, it works. Ultimately clarity is what you need when you are crossing the turbulent seas of life's adventure, entrepreneurialism, or accomplishing a mission.

As Hiphoppas, we are mostly descendants from the world's indigenous diaspora. As a result, we all have the ability to see

matter through the lens of Spirit. Part of our greatest power is the ability to use our Spirit to affect the physical world. As we cross the Atlantic, get back to our original power, genius, and Purpose; we must have consistency. We must have a guaranteed set of actions and behaviors that we can rely on to get us to our original Divine roots. Ritual is our answer to giving ourselves a manifestation checklist. Rituals keep us moving toward the light with momentum and a sense of deep belonging to our community.

We're sure you've seen a live emcee rock the mic at a club or party at one time or another. If not, you MUST go and do that tonight, tomorrow, or this week. You must connect to Hiphop through it's natural original ritual of interactive engagement with our griots (emcee/rappers), and you may have a lot of communal catching up to do. Sitting in front of the computer or watching T.V. does not give you the emotional thrust to electrify your body and soul. When you are in a club or arena and the D.J's spinning with beats pulsating through your heart and lungs, best believe you'll feel connected and ultimately driven by Hiphop!

There is no reason to procrastinate, act now. Even if you go to live shows regularly, maybe it's now time to observe with a keen eye what's really happening at the event. Maybe, it's now time to consciously witness your Divine Purpose connecting with the Divine Purpose of others. For real, is that not what our ciphers are all about? Isn't that why we say, "Make some noise!" Crowd participation goes back all the way to the beginning of Hiphop in the South Bronx in the 70's. We are simply carrying on traditional rituals. Interacting with each other gives us a sense of community on the flip side of these industrial mechanical numerically calculated societies. One of the best ways we unlock our fantasy, imagination, vision, sexuality, passion, drive, Purpose, belonging, and meaning is by moving our bodies to the drum; and allowing our minds to be led by live emcee griots.

It is true that when we get together as people, we are under the protection of Providence (Hiphop). We are under the protection of Spirit. When that D.J. throws on a song that makes Every – BODY hype, the emotional energy in the whole place is triggered collectively, we come together as ONE. We are all experiencing the same enjoyable moment. The music is so loud most of the time, that we kill all the talking and chatter and end up communicating non-verbally. Believe it our not, our consciousness and minds are stimulated by live events. We book a show, prepare for the event and think through the choreography of the event. The audience buys tickets anticipating something enjoyable. Individuals come together, making an audience full of people with individual hopes, needs, desires, and wants. When we come together and move in unison as one audience, the emcee speaks with the audience. This is why phony rappers have trouble in live performances, they have not learned to be ONE with THE FORCE.

Have you ever seen the difference between predominantly white churches and predominantly black churches? Most Caucasian westerners have church service that is more of a ceremony. There is order, protocol, predictability. There is an overall lethargic boredom in the room. Maybe they got it from Queen Elizabeth. Who knows? It's just how they operate. On the other hand, going to a black church service is like going to a Hiphop event! You never know what's going to happen or how many people will be jumpin', dancing, or shoutin'! You don't know who will fall out in the isle and pass out! You might even see the pastor come up to the pulpit wearing a frozen diamond Jesus medallion!

For people who have African ancestors and have roots in indigenous cultures, there is always a deeper element of spontaneity any time we gather. Just like in Apostolic and holiness churches, human's have all felt the need to cut loose, jump up and down shaking out demons. For some reasons, European and Anglo-Saxon descendents have suppressed this for years. As Hiphop has taken over world popular culture, we see a shift as the offspring and children of Europeans gravitate back toward their natural bodily bliss, as they crave music within Hiphop Kulture. Hiphoppas welcome all races, creeds, and nationalities with open arms. As Hiphoppas, we may or may not decide to go to church, but we wear doo rags, baggy jeans, and boots. We have rituals on our time, in our element, for our reasons. Most rituals do involve releasing pent up tension and frustration, a common need for all people in our urban communities. Any Hiphop venue is a place of high ecstasy. Any underground Hiphop event is a place of profound euphoria and bliss.

Our rituals also tend to reflect our overstanding of life beyond Earth. For the most part, we all experience the same bullshit under the hands of our oppressors, only in different forms. We know there is a higher meaning beyond our physical forms. Someone loses a job, someone gets killed, someone gets locked up, someone's parent is abusive, someone is addicted to drugs or alcohol. We cannot necessarily predict our responses to tragedy or crisis at any given moment. Our emotional energy that is released when we sense loss in our lives is all Spirit.

When we physically see the symbols which represent Hiphop (mics, turntables, b-boys/girls, graf art, clothes, stages etc.), our consciousness is awakened, vision is restored, THE SIGHT of early Hiphoppas is preserved: two turntables, a microphone, b-boys, b-girls, fashion, God's building, and Earth's dancing with their children. We are reminded of our creative genius within. All these events save us from destructive patterns and demonic plans meant to oppress; and eventually eliminate our people; through slavery, genocide, and gentrification.

Afrika Bambaataa started the Zulu Nation for that Purpose. He and others have always upheld the symbols of Hiphop that point our Spirits in the direction of peace, love, unity, and havin' fun. Let us remind ourselves to avoid traps with the effective rituals we have within Hiphop Kulture.

"We learned that you can't please everybody,
so it's best just to please yourself first,
and everything else will fall into place."

-*J*-Lai of Profyle

Arriving on African soil

Let us recap, rather than just being an Uncle Tom, House Nicca, or Minstrel clown at a coon picnic; you took your life into your own hands facing the unknown Atlantic of trials and tribulations, including your fears. While other slaves built sand castles, blinded by the oppressors tricks, you paid your dues to the Universe and survived the currents, storms, and dangers of the Atlantic. Your ship almost sunk, you almost drowned three times, and you were starved and dehydrated. You are greeted with a prince/princess of paradise. You are honored as your people have prepared a feast fit for a King.

In other words, you've earned your respect as an Attuned Hiphoppa, rather than the assimilated monkey see monkey do of the mainstream music industry's media mirage. You've completed projects. You've accomplished goals. You've faced your fears. You've helped others. You've published your writing, C.D.'s, and/or other similar lasting contributions to Hiphop Kulture. You can fully embrace a community of like minded people who respect and admire your integrity, will, and determination. You're a stand up man or woman. You are back to the health, love, awareness, and wealth; natural fruits of your indigenous way of life. You have peace of mind and you've arrived at your Destiny safe and sound. You're dreams are fulfilled, now there's more room to build. You are on your way to Zion.

There is no better symbolic representation of your metaphorical mental journey back to Africa than the classic Hiphop movie Belly. Remember how Belly ended? The cycle of destruction, murder, and lies was coming to an end. Sincere was almost ready to take his wife and child back to Africa, away from the chaos of the New York streets. However, before he could go, he still had to navigate the dangerous cycle before he reached his freedom. For example, even dealing with his former partner in crime Tommy, was a tense unpredictable moment. And indeed, Tommy had already decided to infiltrate the Minister's following, to Selfishly gain his "get away from prison free pass" from the secret agent who plotted to assassinate the Minister. He betrayed the trust of his long time friend and even falsified righteousness. Remember how this ending unfolded? Let's review:

{Narrative of Sincere}

…..I get a phone call from niccas like early this evening. I can't believe it, he want me to meet him up in Harlem, I don't even know what's goin on. First of all how the fuck he get out of jail. Maybe this nicca gave me up to get out, you know, it could be a set up, you can never tell with this nicca. I mean Bunz is my dog, you know, but….. this nicca man it's hard to tell sometimes, he can be ill when he wanna be…

{Sincere enters diner}

Sincere: "Yo Bunz, what up nicca? What scheme you up to now, man?
Tommy: How you doin Sin?
Sincere: Man.. I'm alright man, what's up man, I been tryin to call you man, how come you ain't called me back?
Tommy: It ain't hard to tell…… my life's in a whole 'nother direction dog.
Sincere: I can see that…Yo, man you know I don't believe you right. Yo, I thought you was up the river man. I ain't know what to do. I went to Ox house, yo…then I called Mark and 'nem to tell them what happened…… I ain't get no response….
Tommy: Yeah…… I heard about Ox na' I'm sayin…… but u wanna know something though Sin…….u was always right dog,…….na' I'm sayin we was ..we was on the road to destruction from the beginning……wasn't tryin to hear it though, you know….. But now, you know, the minister showed us the right path..I"m tryin to take that path
Sincere: Yo happened to fuck followers and no **Purpose** and all that shit all ya issues and shit??!!
Tommy: Listen dog, we all make mistakes, especially me, if you got a chance to make it right……..you make it right…….. got that from you.
Sincere: I feel its the only way. I don't feel the need to play the whole part in the entire **movement**……. but yo if u just raise your family right. If I just life righteously…… I'll be alright. Yo my whole life is dedicated to change. Yo I'm going to Africa.
Tommy: Word?
Sincere: Word.
Tommy: Africa?!
Sincere: I'm a take some time out to reflect on the things that's happening, you know between you …….me…..the whole world.
Tommy: That's ill son, that's ill …. What can I say but … you know…. congratulations. Ya know, good luck on your trip to the motherland.
Sincere: Good lookin' Bunz. Yo I hope everything is right wit you and the Minister as well Aight . Oh, what you want me to do with the car and all that….all ya shit….. what you want me to do with that.
Tommy: Well, I ain't gonna really need none of that, you know what I'm sayin accept it as a gift, yo….
Sincere: Aight
Tommy: Take it to the heart…

Sincere: Deep
Tommy: One
Sincere: One

The essence of this dialogue is symbolic of how good always conquers evil. When Sincere and Tommy sit face to face, the intention of Sincere is to love and respect his friend unconditionally. Tommy knows this and even though he would stop at nothing to preserve his Self, he finally took the one route that began to subconsciously transform. Even though Tommy is lying through his teeth to Sincere….he begins to believe his own words…the force of love takes over. He began to have a conscience. Tommy thought he could be hard, cold, and ruthless and that there was no Purpose before. He thought that getting money and surviving at all costs were his only motives to live.

The above conversation reveals how redemption becomes powerfully intoxicating, just like Self-destruction. Tommy feels Sincere's energy of doing right in the world, and even makes one last gesture by giving him the material items such as the car as a gift. It's almost as if Tommy was saying to himself, "I know I'm going to do wrong by killing the minister, and I'm lying to my long time friend, I at least have to commit a good deed for a man who's never done me wrong." Even in Tommy's ride with the secret agent, there is a sense of consciousness pervading his mood and manner. The talk with his friend Sincere, righteousness, light, divinity, his own conscience, and having to follow the minister's teachings planted a seed of hope in his heart, which was growing rapidly, no matter how dark the world was around him.

Even with all the righteousness and good deeds Sincere puts out, he cannot escape the Karma of his past dealings with Tommy. The next event unfolds and Sincere is shot by another act of revenge outside the barbershop from a crazy dude they clowned when they were robbers. In fact, it is the same man Tommy had made strip naked for talking shit to Sincere. It was symbolic of how karma goes around and comes around. Even though we make changes for the better life, sometimes we have Universal debts we are unaware of. Because of this, Sincere has to defend himself by shooting back and killing the man. He barely makes it home and his wife Tee is crying. Sincere almost falls back into the devil's trap again and wants to retaliate even more, but his wife Tee keeps saying, "let's go to Africa, let's just go…"

Just like these final scenes in Belly, you may encounter all forms of demonic resistance and obstacles to fulfill your Divine Purpose, live your Destiny, and your dream. Even as we write this our printer is out of ink, we've had computer problems, and The Temple of Hiphop website was even bombed by racists who posted up derogatory hate images. You must let nothing stop you from "going back to Africa." The Truth will get you back to Africa, in the metaphorical sense. The lies you tell to yourself and the lies of others will keep you on the American shores where you are plagued by mental slavery. Your Divine Purpose rests in your ability to keep an open and free mind.

The fact that Sincere had no idea that his friend completely lied to his face and even had a plot to kill the minister proves how destructive we can be as humans. Even when the choices between right and wrong are clear, man or woman can always be tempted by tricks used to destroy mental clarity. Was this the type of scenario that may have gotten one of our beloved heroes Malcolm X killed? How far will we go to sell our own people out? How long will we tolerate destroying our own people? Regardless of Sincere's Purpose to help his friend make the right moves, Tommy's ruthlessness and Self-preservation led him to the point of not caring about anything but his escape from a prison sentence.

As the countdown to the new millennium in the movie begins, men conspire to take Tommy's life in revenge. The cycle continues to spiral into hell on earth as other niccas plot to kill Tommy's wife and she ends up shooting one in the head to defend herself. The destruction, death, and darkness continues as Tommy finally makes it into the Minister's study, ready to blow the Minister's head off just so he can pay his debt to the secret agent. This scene is A true moment in the history of filmmaking which has mainly been ignored by pop culture and most of the world. This final scene represents the pinnacle of what Hiphop is attempting to accomplish through us.

We lost something in Egypt. Could Hiphop be what we found? In celestial Divine poise, the Minister calmly looks Tommy in the eye and conveys a message that remains at the essence of our message as Nightjohn…..

Minister: I knew you were coming, so I sent everyone away, because I believe my final moment was at hand. Before you pull that trigger and take my life, I would like the chance to tell you some things, perhaps…. to think about after I'm gone. Don't worry about me stalling. My people have orders to leave me to my studies for another fifteen minutes…..I will only take five. Can you bear with me?..... Will you? .....Then make up your mind…...

Today marks the change of not only a new year, but a new millennium. Take a look around. The majority of the youth roam the streets dealing in drugs sex, and violence, thinking these things have no real effect on life. Crimes, without real punishment. An uncaring, unfeeling generation without knowledge of Self. This is the future of our nation, the future of our people. Do you think hatred and evil will go unpunished? The world is now feeling the heat from flames it has kept burning since the beginning of civilization. You represent that fire. You and I are just a small part of God's plan. The evil men of this world have applied every method possible to deceive it's occupants, and each time with greater success than anticipated. But no more! Tonight with this new millennium, God will begin to overcome this evil. I represent the Truth to the people. Without Truth, nothing is sacred. The lie, that's what the devil is all about….and brother you know that already, because that's why you are here.

The Truth is, we all play a grave roll in our own destruction. Your money. Your lifestyles. The things that people value and covet so dearly, are the bait that lure them out of the Light. Through the love of others, I have power. The Truth gives me this. Those that fear me, send you here. Here to murder all that I say. They use what you fear against you. -Your fear of death. Your fear of imprisonment. Where in this world is anyone safe from death? You see the lies

you've been told. The path you take is not your own. Have you ever thought about how precious a life is, how difficult it is to create? How loosely and easily it has been for you to take away? Brother, help me. Help me to do what is right. Help me to stop the slaughter of our children. Help me to put an end to the disrespect and the dishonor of our most valuable resource…..the black woman. Help me to put an end to the destruction of the young mind through the use of drugs……alcohol. Help me to build up a population of great thinkers, people who create change through thoughtfulness and Spirituality. Will you choose that Truth? Will you? Will you choose the Light over the Darkness…?"

{Tommy thinking}
Once I found out the clock was tickin'
Shit, the glock was stickin
Na, kill it…. cause revenge is all a nicca
could think about in the end
But I'm going for the binge
Burn till I singe
Fuck ya'll niggas
Born by myself, die by myself!!
Is the Truth
If you don't know
what it's gonna be in the end
T-minus……. 3…..2…….1….Amen….

{Door busts open}
Bodyguards: Drop the Gun!
Minister: Hold it stay where you are……
Minister: Will you choose life? It's time. It's time man. It's time……

{Tommy's hand becomes weak. and limp as he hands over the Gun, Minister and Tommy make peace and hug….the light outshines the darkness}

{Narrative of Sincere}
When I opened my eyes, I couldn't believe it, Africa for real. I felt like I never really seen clouds before. I felt like the sky was a different color blue. The trees a different color green, and the people too, the people were beautiful. It felt right. It was harmony, like I wasn't far from home…….everybody together. Me Tionne, Kenya…… it was like…..it was like a whole new beginning.

We equate living a high quality life of fulfillment, happiness, and drive as making it back to Africa safe and sound (symbolically and/or literally). Even if your purpose does not take you back to the motherland physically; one way or another, living according to your values and Divine Purpose will take you to a place of harmony and peace in your mind and daily behaviors. If your actions resemble a Divine Purpose that connects you back to your Self-worth and community, you are living successfully and should cherish the moment. Fuck the devil's pie you OWN bakeries of beauty, bliss, and bank!!!

Ten Intelligences

Musical

Natural

Spiritual

Existential

Verbal-Linguistic

Bodily-Kinesthetic

Spatial-Mechanical

Interpersonal-Social

Logical- Mathematical

Intrapersonal (Self-Knowledge)

What's Your Highest Intelligence?

"When a person places the proper value on freedom, there is nothing under the sun that he will not do to acquire that freedom. Whenever you hear a man saying he wants freedom, but in the next breath he is going to tell you what he won't do to get it, or what he doesn't believe in doing in order to get it, he doesn't believe in freedom. A man who believes in freedom will do anything under the sun to acquire or preserve his freedom."

"You don't have to be a man to fight for freedom. All you have to do is to be an intelligent human being."

---*Ma*lcolm X

In the Western world, we commonly define genius by extraordinary intellectual or creative power. In Western thought, for years, it was mistakenly assumed that intelligence was a single, general capacity that individuals may or may not possess at a high or low level. It was assumed that intelligence can be measured by standard math and verbal tests such as short answers, paper, and pencil tests. In the West, we talk about I.Q. (Intelligence Quotient); and most Westerners use I.Q. as the quantifying factor in determining genius; most likely a person who has an I.Q. above 140. It is important for all world citizens to re-evaluate OUR own definition of intelligence.

We are beginning to fully comprehend that there is more than one intelligence. In fact, there are many intelligences. In Howard Gardner's book, Frames of Mind, he defines each separate form of intelligence as the ability to solve problems or create products that are valued within one or more cultural settings. In other words, if you know where you are, what life in that environment/lifestyle/culture is all about, you can apply skills and solve problems, and you can determine what is important and not important, you become valuable. You become intelligent. The more capable you are of solving problems and of creating products and service in that social, cultural, or political setting, the more intelligent you must be in that particular area of expertise.

Intelligence is also the ability to make distinctions in a particular field of endeavor. If you can apply specialized knowledge in one environment and not another, you are still intelligent, just in that one particular environment. Does that make sense?

In our Hiphop driven lives, we view genius, much like Garner does in his theory of multiple intelligences. Genius is more or less relative to the boundaries of what we value and find important as human beings. We see genius as something that is "remembered" about the vast reservoir of potential within our soul. For us, genius is something that is always with us unconsciously, our aims are to consciously tap into it and use it in our daily life as our own strategy for Self-improvement. Genius is a line within us connected to Infinite Intelligence Spiritually that we unleash from the inner world to the outer world. Talent or skills may be the result of this "re-finding," but at the core of genius for us is inner love. We would like to briefly introduce you to ten different intelligences that represent our potentials as human beings. It is our intention that you find a way to align your Divine Purpose with your most dominant ability and highest form of intelligence.

More importantly, we know how valuable it would be for you to delve into all these different forms of intelligence to explore your capabilities. The more skills we have in any of these forms of intelligence, the more valuable we become to one another in our daily lives. We will be able to communicate our greatness. It benefits us all to build our up our weaknesses in each category. Our ability to build and create a Hiphop guild is directly proportional to our ability to recognize our value toward one another. We present these forms of intelligence to you, presented from the eyes of attuned Hiphoppas and their relevance to us. We also have explained the connections between each form of intelligence and each of the 9 element's of Hiphop. Keep in mind that we are not seeking to back up theories of multiple intelligence with evidence. That would be beyond the scope of this book. We are more interested in making you aware of possibilities within your Self. We would like to inspire you to make progress on YOU being a better YOU.

"You've got to stay focused… It's focus, in my opinion, and that's what I want to say to anybody who has any desire to build anything that's real."

- Russell Simmons, CEO of Def Jam

"When you stop a man from dreaming,
he becomes a slave."

*-The Artist formerly known as Prin*ce, Ebony Magazine

Musical Intelligence

At the heart of human excellence, there is always a rhythm or a song to back it up. Many have said that God created and continues to create all music. Musicians have always been some of the most highly respected members of society. Why? There is beauty in harmony, melody, and syncopation. Wherever you find beauty, Truth is not far behind. Human beings are willing to pay a high price to hear music that touches their heart and moves their soul. Most people who have a strong musical influence grow up in households where music is very dominant in the environment. Babies sing and babble at a young age. It's natural that many children pick up their musical traits from their parents and other members of the family who have an ear for music.

Being able to tune in one's ears to rhythms and larger musical patterns isn't always a reflection on other abilities, like mathematical ability, or songwriting. Composing music is doing not thinking. Some people learn much more quickly how to create music than others. Music does not even require the use of instruments.

Many Hiphoppas are music. When an emcee uses his or her voice to make syncopated a capella vocals, the voice is the instrument. When someone is beatboxin', all parts of the mouth, throat, lips, and tongue are the instruments. Do you have a tendency to make beats by banging your hands or fists on the table or walls? That is music. People who are inclined and attracted to music have little trouble expressing their musical talents. You may lack instruments, electronic beats, production equipment, or

recorded music; but it is the animation of your body that creates music. If you think you may be a musician, explore the music within you, and see what you find. Although you may start off clumsy or awkward with a new instrument or freestylin' a rap, you at least are giving yourself a chance to test your musical capacity.

Some people sing in the shower, sing while getting dressed, sing on the way to work and wonder why they can't be the next great singer. Why not? It is the attraction to a particular form of intelligence that gives us promise of developing that skill. Our Creator gives us the choice to make that decision and pursue that talent. If our body's, mind's, and soul's are wired to make music, our happiness won't be there like it should unless we build that skill to it's maximum capacity. Happiness is found in doing (and getting paid for) what comes natural to you. So many people are musicians, but fail to realize their true potential. They are musicians trapped, singing like the caged bird. How many people will go to their graves with songs still inside their minds and hearts; songs that were never shared with the world? Rap. Sing. Compose. Write songs. Make beats. Produce. Engineer. Beatbox. DJ. Do whatever it takes to fulfill your musical appetite.

Often people ask the question why all these famous singers, rappers, and musicians make so much more money than everyone else. Is it just because they are famous? We think it is more of a reflection on our culture and our society. People in society place more value as a whole on listening to music. Because musicians have enough guts to get up in front of thousands at a time, sell music to millions all over the world, and be placed in the spotlight, the law of numbers says they will get abundance for sharing so much with the world (that is if greedy executives don't take it all first!). Therefore, people who enter these musical fields and become very successful are in HIGH DEMAND.

Don't ever let anyone fool you into thinking that being any type of musician is not an honorable and noteworthy way to make a living. It is. The benefits musicians bestow on society are numerable. Musicians touch lives, inspire, create wonderful emotions, and give people meaning and comfort in hard times. All the other perceptions and stereotypes about musicians living lavish lifestyles, doing drugs, and Self-destructing doesn't have to be the case for YOU. The more people are aware that music is a specific genre of intelligence, the more respect musicians will receive, and the more original unique musicians will present their talent. Musicians are always glorified in the entertainment circles. They should also be respected for the contributions they make to intellectual pools of thought by enlightening people, sparking higher levels of thought, and enhancing imagination.

God bless the Deejay. The deejay is one example of Hiphop's mastery over music. Our deejay's can combine mix and scratch all forms of music. They must time records, blend songs, fade in, fade out. Deejay's keep the crowd hype, make song lists that will move the crowd. The value of the Deejay is priceless. Where would Hiphop be with the innovations of DJ Kool Herc and Afrika Bambaataa? These two men were musically intelligent beyond the comprehension of most mainstream institutional thinkers. No matter how many research experiments are done at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Oxford, no one will ever be able to explain the creative energy that caused early Hiphop deejay's to take broken turntables, light posts, and multiple genres of old records to make people dance. Hiphop's deejays are the stuff made of legends. The deejay is an icon for musical intelligence. Deejays channel anger, frustration, happiness, and joy of the Eternal

Music speaks for itself and expresses itself through it's performer. Supreme Being uses the person who is a musician to reveal harmony and melody of the Universe. If Infinite Intelligence created ALL things, how could ALL music not be an extension of our Creator? Performing music and listening to music are related. In order to perform, a person must listen to the soul. In order to listen, a person must perform attentiveness. When sounds are pleasing to the ear, environments and circumstances shift. How many times have you had a life experience that in some way connects to the music you created or listened to at that time? All throughout the world, since the beginning of time; wherever rhythmic, dance, or group participation in music is in high demand, individuals with talents in these areas are given special praise.

"It's not our responsibility to prove to people who we are. Our job and responsibility is to "Be." What you do is proof of who you are; manifestation is realization. People have a right to think whatever they choose to think. Just because they think it does not make it right."

*-Iyanl*a Vanzant, Acts of Faith

Naturalist Intelligence

There is only one Earth….at least that we know of. The planet we call our world is also what we call Mother Nature. There are people who have a deep calling in their lives to make distinctions among living things in nature. Most of the time it starts

as a child, when you spend all afternoon looking at trees in a park, playing with animals, feeding pigeons, or fishing. These people are expressing the skill of naturalist intelligence. It is safe to say that Native Americans possessed this type of intelligence. Long before the Europeans brought guns and diseases to North America, Native American's mastered the landscape. They had no concept of land being for sale. Native American's believed land belonged to everyone. It was the European concept that Native Americans' were uncivilized that caused the massacre of these naturalist intellectuals. Many were forced into assimilation schools, so they could not practice their natural religion. They freely roamed where and when they wanted to before, upon westward expansion of explorers, they were eliminated by Europeans with guns who thought that their intelligence was superior. Is the mastery over the Earth and natural elements not worthy of glorifying!? Of course it is. Schools are very limited in honoring a child for staying outside in the woods or parks all day distinguishing between types of herbs and flowers.

If it wasn't for hunters, fisherman, farmers, gardeners, landscapers, and cooks; there would be very many miserable people in society. I'm sure when one is called to master Nature by his or her Creator, just being outside among the Earth's creations is a Divine Purposeful undertaking. What does a child do when the mastery of 100 different types of herbs requires he or she skip school all day?! What if such topics are only covered briefly in a school textbook. Most schools cram several classes in a day. Since the only purpose of schools is to train people to follow orders and be mental slaves in a fast technological society, I'm sure there are many Naturalist intellectuals who know in their hearts and minds they are one with Earth's elements. It takes true courage to become skilled in Nature, knowing how to read seasonal change, predict weather, apply medicinal herbs, and farm.

Naturalists possess talent, and tame, all living creatures, and can distinguish the differences among all types of species. To have extensive knowledge of the living world must be a great blessing from the Most High God. Imagine this, everything that we possess, that is a material item, was at one point an item on or in the Earth. Everything, from cotton, to plastic, to silicon, to paper, to marble, to gold, and diamonds. All the natural gas for cars, jet fuel, and crude oil Americans gobble up so greedily, is ALL from the Earth. One would have to assume that groups of people who disregard the environment; polluting the air and water, as well as tearing down trees lack a little….intelligence about nature. Because industrialists, capitalists, and elitists have been so ignorant, there is a HIGH DEMAND for people who can help us find ways to save this planet before the greedy and power glutton's cause it to implode!

"The African race is like a rubber ball;
the harder you dash it to the ground, the higher it will rise."

-*Africa*n proverb, Wisdom of the Elders

Spiritual Intelligence

You are a SPRIT inside a body, which is having a physical experience here on Earth. The Spirit, Spiritual life, Spiritual capacity, Spiritual feeling is all a specialized form of intelligence. There are some people who are extremely gifted at recognizing Spiritual immortality and invincibility. Such people are the Spiritual minded. Spirit is not a straightforward topic. Many of us do not respect the Spirit as much as we do the mind and body. Why? How does our heart beat throughout our entire lives without stopping? How do we breathe without even thinking? How do we see, hear, feel, taste, and touch in our dreams? Why must we sleep? Those are the questions that masters of Spiritual intelligence attempt to help us answer. In the realm of the Spirit, no one is safe from humility.

For years, abstract math and calculus has been forced on students in schools. Why has equal emphasis not been put on the problem solving skills of Spiritual intelligence? Why is there not a class on Spirit in schools? Making distinctions about cheerleaders asses at school pep rallies ain't how you study Spirit! However, if we think of Spirit as the animation of humanity, the driving force, the energy that moves us, then it makes more sense to us that someone could be gifted or talented in Spiritual matters. Knowing the inner world of our individual Spirits takes dedication and commitment. Some individuals are simply more patient and willing to be observant to learn about Spirit than others. It requires courage and faith to relate to the supernatural world. What happens when you have faith in the unseen vision of your dreams but others don't? Would it be safe to say that you are Spiritually intelligent? Would it be safe to conclude that they are not as skilled as you at material renunciation? Of course. So, what if some people ace calculus, you may be the one who meditates, and has crystal clear visions for twenty years into the future. No one is wrong, because God gives us all a Purpose.

People who know how to reach higher states of being help others understand their own Spirits. Those who know how to meditate, achieve trance states, envision the transcendent, and stay in touch with the psychic, are all in HIGH DEMAND. Think not? What happens when disaster strikes? All the people who got straight A's in Calculus and thought the Spiritual man or woman was a lunatic; coming running praying asking for guidance. Who will explain the essence of Spiritual warfare?

When the World Trade Center was attacked on September 11, 2001, there was a HIGH DEMAND for people who see beyond the material and physical world. All the other people who were ignorant in Spiritual affairs were chaotic and panicking. Moreover, what are we to do as citizens of the world when a whole government declares Spiritual warfare. Who do we look to answer our questions about Spirit? If we look to those who label themselves generically as intelligent because of their money or status, we will be following the blind. We know plenty of college graduates, professionals, and so-called intellectuals who can't tell the difference between their Spirit and their Egos.

Personalized control of consciousness helps people have encounters with a deeper or higher Truth. Spiritually powerful figures drive individuals toward cosmic issues. Mastering the craft of altering ones' consciousness and being in touch with the cosmos is the essence of Spirituality. We never know who is the most Spiritual among us. Some may try to prove their Spirituality by reciting books, wearing different clothes, and/or following a certain code of conduct. The Truth always remains that Spirit is an individual's domain. The Sprit of the human will is indestructible. Look how much humans have endured throughout time. It is those who are Spiritually intelligent who will find a Divine Purpose that feels in harmony with Infinite Intelligence.

"The genius of our black foremothers and forefathers was…
to equip black folk with cultural armor to beat back the demons of hopelessness, meaninglessness, and lovelessness."

- ***Corne***l West, Famous Black Quotations

Existential Intelligence

We'd like to think that if you are the existentialist specialist, then you have all the answers for why you're reading this book and we are just entertaining you! Why are we all here on Earth? What does it mean to be human? Why do we have concern with ultimate issues? Where did we come from? Where are we going? We know that at some point the Universe began, and we believe we have the capacity to locate ourselves with respect to the furthest reaches of the cosmos. We exist, therefore we are….existential intellectuals. As Nightjohn, we have the capacity to locate ourselves with respect to the human condition, significance of life, the meaning of death, ultimate fate of the physical/psychological worlds, love for all people, and immersion in art. Why else would we write a book for YOU, about discovering your Divine Purpose. We know that our existence is connected very closely to your existence. It is our sharing of information that unites our existence. Out of this unity; there is something grand which we still have yet to figure out.

Mythology has always had an important role in religion and history in the world. All cultures have individuals who have used mythology to define their existence. These individuals have done well with their lot in life. Equating your life with heroes, adventures, symbols, and stories adds depth and Purpose to living. The storytellers and messengers who interpret the deep profound meanings and wisdom of mythology possess existential intelligence. There are no classes in middle to high schools specifically for this one topic. Maybe in some colleges, there is a class on Existentialism. Even so, would it still be as profound as

living and practicing existential intelligence on a daily basis?

Those of us who feel oppressed, and go through all types of torment, torture, and pain have our ways of coping with it. How? What prevents us all from committing suicide when we face our darkest moments? The only answer is the drive to have meaning and to make sense of all existence. There is always a need for positive people who inspire others to see their own freedom and responsibility. In fact as Nightjohn, this is our highest intelligence. The Hiphop Driven Life is a book which emerged not only from linguistic intelligence and Spiritual intelligence, but also existential intelligence.

We all exist at once in the Great Event called Life. Those who have the skill to rise to peak. performance states have an ability to tap into themselves with a powerful sense of connection to the present moment. Being able to embrace the freedom of the moment and the responsibility of deciding NOW, acting NOW, and living NOW, puts people in amazing states of congruency. When the principles you live by reflect your outward life and your game is tight, you literally feel invincible. This skill can only be categorized by existential intelligence. One who has the ability to lose sense of time and space is a master of flow states and peak performances. These states of mind cannot always be described or explained. This is when your whole body, mind, and soul connect and you run on autopilot. Striving to have more and more of these states in life, gives people who may be less intelligent in this category a sense of what is possible. The second people see something they never thought was possible, is the second they may decide it's possible for themselves. The influence of existential matters is significant and makes a big difference in the world. This is the essence of street knowledge.

"Man is his words."
-African Proverb, Acts of Faith

Verbal-Linguistic Intelligence

Language is the most thoroughly studied form of intelligence. In mainstream academic environments, the SAT is even divided between math and verbal sections. I.Q. tests are the same. One of the most intriguing expressions from us as Hiphoppas is our linguistic codes. Our street language is one key element of Hiphop that has always faced criticism by the mainstream pop culture. Ebonics has always been criticized and questioned. Are you bi-lingual? Tri-lingual? Surely, if you have a skill with words, you are capable of expressing verbal-linguistic intelligence.

Unfortunately, in traditional classroom environments, people living a Hiphop driven life are forced to assimilate and submit to the larger mainstream language to succeed. What a pity! Street language has so much color and beauty. Ebonics is beautiful. Being able to speak broken English is a blessing. The Europeans tried to break African's down using pure proper English to write the laws that enslaved others. Africans were forced to learn English. Why should we always speak English their way! We refuse to speak like William Shakespeare 24 hours a day!! If you refuse to speak like King James, then in our eyes, you have enough verbal intelligence to know that the King's English don't represent your Afrocentric soul. Hence, we must speak broken English to feel comfortable with our vernacular. We must break all the propriety down so we can put some feeling, soul, and vibrancy into the words of our meaningful communication. When we speak English, we even speak it with more power than the English do themselves and they're jealous! That's why they hate on Ebonics ya'll!

Emcees and poets are masters of Divine speech. What better way to master something, than to convert it's shade and meaning. As Hiphoppas, we transform subjects and objects in attempt to describe our R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. Hiphop's emcees and spoken word poets express the highest form of verbal intelligence on the planet, and many of us don't need masters degrees or PhD's in English. Go ahead, speak proper English, get those grades, get that job, get that corporate promotion. At the same time, be able to kick real shit when it's time to speak in street codes.

If you read a lot, are sensitive to the shades of meaning of a word, and talk a lot, then most likely you have a special gift or talent for verbal-linguistic intelligence. Don't sit on that. You must develop all your languages whether it is: Ebonics, Patois,

Gullah, Yoruba, Swahili, Italian, French, Portuguese, Southern Drawl, Boston style, New York tone, and Portuguese among others. Just like with all the other intelligences we have been discussing, it takes persistence and repetition to master your craft. This is why we're advocating that Hiphoppas begin to discriminate between their own weakness, strengths, highest intelligence, and Divine talent. When you do YOU and bring out the best in yourself, everybody wins. When you focus on your highest form of intelligence, you make way for others to specialize in what they do. We all have a Purpose and that synergy allows us to balance our community. If you are very verbal, help yourself learn language. Read, write rhymes, write essays, speak, and rap. Get the word out. Now that we are in the information/entertainment age, your very word as an attuned Hiphoppa is in HIGH DEMAND. People need the Truth in beautifully coded slang words that speak to their REAL life and are willing to pay you a high price for your expression. If words are your skill, don't sleep on that. Get paid putting the word out with style and flava!

Consistent determined practice is the key to ALL eventual success. Writing skill is a muscle that demands daily exercise. Just like if you sit on your ass for six months, then go out and try to run 2 miles, you are going to over do it. Without preparing your body, you'll hurt yourself or pass out. It's the same way with words, the less you write, the less conditioned you will be to pump out your dream novel, your magazine, or your book. Deciding on your highest intelligence is one thing, committing the time and energy to do whatever it takes to master that discipline is different. If you have it in you, it will eventually flow out. You just have to grow your talents and gifts through the uncomfortable, frustrating stages. By the way, when frustration appears, get excited! Frustration means that you see the end, and it's pulling you forward. As long as you have a plan aligned with your best intelligence, you'll get everything you ever wanted in life. Believe that.

Rapping is a verbal skill that demands daily practice as well. Emcees are community spokesmen and women who master sounds of words (phonology) and the musical interaction of syllables. Rappers are employees of record companies who get paid a monetary amount for their lyrical prowess and song making ability. Rappers may or may not have the same skills as emcees depending on the reasons a record executive has hired the rapper as an employee. If a rapper is employed simply to bring in sales, the rapper tends to become more of a paid actor with minimal artistic innovation.

There is a difference between Emceeing and Rapping. Emceeing is an art – the natural expression of verbal-linguistic intelligence. Rapping is a profession – the corporate agreement to make songs as an employee for a record company. How does one master the unique verbal skill of emceeing? If the words are truly in you and you put effort into freestylin' a capella and writing rhymes for 2-3 months consistently. Even if you've never written a rhyme, you'll see it's easier to put together rhymes. To actually master lyricism, it may take years, or an entire lifetime. The rhymes are a puzzle that you must have a driving sensation to complete. Great emcees write rhymes and freestyle whenever we want.

Too many rappers nowadays have lost the ingenuity to cleverly put rhymes together with Purpose and meaning. Anybody can be a wordsmith and rhyme about random material objects, superficial insults, sexual imagery, emotions, or events. KRS-ONE's Ruminations/Science of Rap and Kool Mo Dee's There's a God on the Mic are great books that we suggest you study as an emcee to help you overstand the skill of emceeing. There are more tutorials on the web, you can start by visiting: www.online-hiphop/features/theemceetutorial/ Next, are some important distinctions that Kool Mo Dee listed to help all verbally intelligent brothers and sisters rise to our own personal best of emceeing. Remember excellence is 10% talent and 90% perspiration. The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary!

Originality	How original is the emcee? Did the emcee create anything or bring anything new to the game that wasn't there before?
Concepts	Rewards Emcees for their ability to paint pictures and concepts that are multi-dimensional, and who conceptualize on an album, or during their career.
Versatility	Rewards artists that have a range of work that varies and who experiment with their rhymes.
Vocabulary	An artist must be able to utilize vocabulary, and that doesn't mean that you have to constantly inundate the audience with big words, but as Big Daddy Kane once said, "It's alright to send someone to the dictionary every now and then."
Substance	Rewards Emcees whose albums have some kind of social relevance or meaning.
Flow	Has a lot to do with syncopation, how an artists cadence flows in and out of multiple records, beats, or tempos. Those artists who are most versatile with their flow or that have a flow that absolutely sucks people in get higher scores.

Flavor	This is about an artist's ability to break out, have fun, and have some kind of signature energy to their rhyme style.
Freestyle	This rates an Emcees ability to be able to come off the top of their head with rhymes, spontaneously, on any given subject.
Vocal Presence	This category looks at how recognizable an artist's voice is the moment someone hears it on a record.
Live Performance	Lot's of Emcees make great records, lots of emcees travel around and do rhymes, but when it comes down to doing a performance live, lots of emcees fall short.
Poetic value	A lot of Emcees rhyme, but don't add poetic value where the metaphor itself or the story within the metaphor is actually profound.
Body of Work	Based on the sum total of the artists work and the level of excellence in that work.
Industry Impact	Has to do with Grammy's, music award, radio airplay, all the things that the "streets" frowned on at one point, but was very, necessary for the Hiphop game to become the integral part of the music business it is now.
Social Impact	Recognizes and rewards artists who try to better the community, better the environment, and better the country.
Longevity	Recognizes those who can last long in the chaos and confusion known as the music business.
Lyrics	Lyrics, otherwise known as an Emcees paradise, are the reasons all Emcees started rhyming; it's the essence of the emcee.
Battle Skills	The combination of wit and attack. Attack and set yourself up as the pinnacle, and create threats. It has to do not only with lyrical skills, but also the ability to be witty, funny, and to insult.

"Step by step. I can't see any other way of accomplishing anything.
I always had the ultimate goal of being the best,
but I approached everything step by step.
Confront fear and Self-doubt. Fear is an illusion."

-Michael Jordan, I Can***'t Accept Not Trying***

Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence

Where are our Tru-school breakers at, our Capoeirista's, our beatboxer's?? Hiphop represents the awareness and attitude of liberation. The movement of the body is a primary force in an individual's liberation. All humans want to feel happy, joyous, and at peace with ourselves. The human body is our primary vehicle for achieving these superb emotional states. When we move our bodies dynamically, we raise our level of being. Our level of feeling is heightened. Imagine how difficult it was for Africans captured and forced to be slaves in the middle passage. Where do you think Capoeira came from? We had to disguise or methods of escape…as a dance! That is pure bodily and kinesthetic intelligence. Our bodies will do anything to fight for freedom, sometimes more than our minds or hearts will permit. In the South Bronx, when b-boy crews did their thing, they just naturally repeated the process of battle dancin', thus early breakin', pop lockin', and up rockin' was born. When oppressed, captured, or suppressed; the body wants to free itself. The movements of dancers are one way to brush the crimes of human bondage and forced captivity off our shoulder.

Dance is defined as: culturally patterned sequences of nonverbal body movements that are Purposeful, intentionally rhythmic, and have aesthetic value in the eyes of those for who the dancer is performing. Of all human activities depicted in caves, dancing is second most prominent after hunting. Here are some Divine Purposes for dance:

- To reflect and validate social organization

- To serve as a vehicle of expression
- To maintain social distinction or recreational activity
- The psychological outlet and release
- To be an aesthetic value in itself
- To be an economic activity in itself
- To serve an education Purpose, an initiation rite
- To embody the supernatural
- To use for sexual selection

Western (Cartesian) thought separates the mental from the physical. What a horrible way to live life! Corporate executives have spread this same thought virus into the psyche of many female dancers in the Hiphop community. It is no mistake that women and men size each other up through the art of dance. In fact, sexual selection has always been related mostly to the body. Now, in modern times, the mind and soul also play a crucial factor to mesmerizing hypnotizing dance. As you can see by most music videos, the art of dancing has sort of been drowned out by the exploitation of so called Self-proclaimed "bitches" in videos that resemble pornography.

What happened to the mind body connection of dancers? Women, especially, have the inborn bodily intelligence to influence men in society through dance. Do these girls out here realize their competence, their power?!! Kings throughout history have lost entire EMPIRES because of women…dancing!! Skilled performers translate intention into action. Why not dance in a way that influences men who think and not merely animalistic boys. Why not bring some type of fresh Kama Sutra style art form back into Hiphop videos.

Everybody's tired of flesh and skin, titties and ass. There's enough pornography on the internet. People are ready for a change in Hiphop videos. Anybody can get horny watchin' Self proclaimed hoes wearing cheap thongs in videos. Women have reduced their power by giving up ALL their respect. It takes power to seduce an intelligent man through an alluring piercing gaze and sensuous dancing…even with the female body covered. Of course, women don't have to be covered from head to toe, just convey a sense of Self-respect. What happened to suspense and mystery?? Why not leave a little imagination? If you as a woman have the bodily and kinesthetic intelligence to striptease and seduce men, why not use your body intelligently? Why not get a group of the sexiest women together, raise your appearance fees proportional to how much of your body will be exposed? It is not intelligent to show all of your body parts for little to no money; a few hundred or thousand dollars to be in somebody's video?! Learn to tell stories with your clothed body movements. Nothing engages a man more than proportioned bodies, graceful in movement, balance, intention, and tone. Get some creativity. Give little girls something to aspire to. Skilled intelligent dancers, YOU are in HIGH DEMAND.

If you've got to shake ya ass, shake ya ass in the name of world peace! Dancing is a harmony between mind and body. Dancers are a hot commodity. If people cannot dance, should they focus on another form of intelligence? Again, it all depends on how much commitment you want to put into dancing. If you know you are skilled at dancing much like a Savion Glover or member of the Rock Steady Crew, get the money owed to you for developing that skill. Highly skilled dancers are in HIGH DEMAND all over the world. People need you to teach them, not just how to shake their asses in videos. People need you to teach them how to free themselves mentally through bodily expression. If you have the bodily-kinesthetic intelligence to lead people out of darkness with dance, using their body as a metaphor, get to work!!

"I made a commitment to completely cut out drinking and anything that might hamper me from getting my mind and body together. And the floodgates of goodness have opened upon me-
Spiritually and financially."

- ***Denzel Washi***ngton, Essence Magazine

Acting is another form of bodily-kinesthetic intelligence that engages the ability to observe and recreate scenes. If you have this ability, what separates your success from that of Will Smith or Denzel Washington? How many other actors would dare to play Malcolm X or Muhammad Ali? What type of dedication and overstanding would it take to embody characteristics of these heroes? Not that Denzel and Will are the only example of successful actors. They just get mad respect worldwide! They are simply two men who particularly stand out as exceptional in their skill. They obviously have a natural talent for acting. More importantly it's the effort put into concentration and recreating feelings through building characters with emotion. They understand that they are not the roles that they play, but they are capable of modeling the lives of great people.

Imagine if all the imitations you do of people, all the voices you make, all the people you have laughing when you impersonate someone held HIGH VALUE. It does!! Much like musicians, in our society actors are very highly respected. In a

country full of people who cannot control their emotions, actors and actresses are the few select people who CAN control their emotions! In addition to memory super power, they are artists who portray all the emotional skill that the general public dreams to have. Actors and actresses live their dreams. Just like famous actors, you too can live your dreams on the big screen. If you work on your God given gift of expressing your body and characterization you will be in HIGH DEMAND.

Athleticism is another form of bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, it is the ability to feel and flow with the fundamentals of any particular sport. Like it or not, many of our youth, look up to professional athletes as heroes. Even upon nearing the completion of this book, we witnessed recent controversy within the Hiphop Community about Nas' song "These are Our Heroes" a.k.a. "Coon Picnic" on the album Street's Disciple.

In the song, Nas gives his insights on people he feels that are more or less doing a disservice to oppressed people's worldwide movement for justice and liberation. Many people point fingers at Nas for "calling 'em out." Many people say "who was he to judge anybody" and the list of criticism of Nas goes on. On the other hand, many people also agree with Nas' points about "so called" celebrities. We, as Nightjohn, overstand what's going on with that whole dynamic. Sometimes people do need a wake up call, and we're thankful a world renown rapper like Nas brought that wake up call to the mainstream public.

We would like to emphasize a few more brilliant points in regard to professional athletes; especially this particularly controversy which exemplifies how athletics has overlapped with Hiphop. First of all, look at professional athletes for what they are – athletes. These people's bodily intelligence is more dominant than their other forms of intelligence. Remember when Kobe did that little song with Tyra Banks about being a "Thug Poet" and he sampled Nas' voice. That shit was weak. and wack! Kobe 's not an emcee. Kobe's not a community spokesperson. He's a basketball player. We admire Kobe for his initiative on the court, his dazzling dunks, his championship rings, and his mastery of the fast break. However, when it comes to survival or leading oppressed inner city children out of mental slavery, Kobe falls short of being effective as a leader. Kids and youth must remember that bodily intelligence helps one survive physical demands, but other forms of intelligence will help them survive life in the United States.

Being Spiritually intelligent will keep you from having your character assassinated in the court of law like that girl did to Kobe. Being existentially intelligent will help you relate and give back to poor black children who look up to you when you are a millionaire. Having Self-knowledge will prevent you from acting like a big overgrown baby or foolish minstrel clown on T.V. This is more or less what Nas was speaking to. We should be careful about how much we admire people just because they play ball well, have a lot of money, and/or because they have brown skin. Why did the whole black community rally around O.J.? Are we all so superficial as to side with a man because his skin is brown? I'm more concerned about a man's intelligence levels, his character, and his deeds. Just like Chris Rock said, "I ain't neva seen my O.J. prize."

As people living a Hiphop Driven Life, we must ask ourselves: Don't these athletes who make all this money using Hiphop images to attract fans owe the Hiphop Community some reparations?? Why should we as the Hiphop community have Kobe's back?? What principles does Kobe follow in regard to poor righteous teaching?? Does Kobe see any injustice in the United States?? In the Hiphop community, we need to sit down with these athletes and start schooling them about the laws of the Universe. Now, these pimp slave drivers who own basketball teams are scooping up poor brown children at younger and younger ages, ONLY because a kid is over six foot, and can dunk a ball or hit jump shots from anywhere on the court. C.E.O.'s of sports teams look at the young black male like he's a thoroughbred horse. These athletes have bodily intelligence but little forms of other intelligence. Not all, but many barely know what to do with the money they get besides spend it! Wise athletes are in HIGH DEMAND. They should get paid handsomely for their skills. It is their right to carry the Hiphop swagger onto any professional arena. However, they must not forget about Hiphoppas who laid the foundation for that swagger when they are off the court. If they do not, we must be careful on how much Hiphop exploitation we let athletes get away with. If they continue to violate the Hiphop Declaration of Peace, we must deal with that swiftly. Other than that, if athletes don't start balancing their minds, they mislead Hiphop youth.

Media influences want the youth to focus on athletes like Kobe so the youth forget about real issues. Skillful manipulation of the media blocks out real heroes and replaces them with these other guys. Has Kobe written any philosophies about how to break the wave of genocide and gentrification that has plagued black communities? What is the content of Kobe's character?? If we were to have Kobe's back in the court of law, when would we get our Kobe prize?? If the entire Hiphop community had educated Kobe and other athletes sooner, maybe we could have channeled some of these athletes millions to help fund our first Hiphop University, or is it still every man for himself in this land of hustlin'?

Inventors are another group of people who can use their hands very skillfully. Early Hiphoppas in South Bronx were dynamic inventors. Anytime you can use your body, eyes, ears, hands and senses to get feedback while experimenting, your Creator is working through you to make something special for the entire world. You are in HIGH DEMAND. You may even like to fiddle with electronics, engines, machines, or computers. It is important that whatever you do, you do it well. Never give up on a possible invention. An invention will not work until you make it work. Every time you mess the invention up and it falls apart, you just learned a benefit that you can use. We all know the stories of the Wright Brothers getting the first plane off the ground and Thomas Edison trying 10,000 times to get the light bulb right. As a Hiphop inventor, we need you. Do your thing and don't hurt

anybody when you blow things up!

"He who controls images controls everything."

-Robert Townsend

Spatial-Mechanical Intelligence

"Imagination is what they lack
It stops niggaz from getting stacks
feeling trapped on the block with loose cracks
Wisdom is vital
for the survival of the street's disciple"

*-N*as, Street*'s Disciple*

Imagine. Visualize. Dream. Think. Perceive. The thoughts involved in the human ability to master spatial-mechanical intelligence are mind boggling. Imagination truly is more important than knowledge. What you visualize and see in your mind is what you will ultimately have in your life. Everything you see in existence was once a picture in the mind of Supreme Being. The manifestation of the Universe has all come from Supreme Being and One Mind visualizing that thought and keeping thought forms focused all times. Everything began in formless substance. The creative forces of formless substance caused the creation of new forms. These new forms have taken the shape of everything from people, to mountains, to cars, to buildings, or clothes.

Street entrepreneurs, graffiti artists, and Hiphop fashion designers are very powerful when it comes to manifesting vision. The ability to create a mental image and adjust ones beliefs, actions, and surroundings to that image is legendary. To perform transformations and modifications upon one's initial perceptions takes pure Divine genius to do. People who have the ability to perceive the visual world accurately, know exactly how to create the world to their favor. Anyone who is able to create and re-create aspects of one's visual experience is highly skilled with holding pictures and images in the mind. Such a person has a mastery over thought experiments and imagination. It has been recorded that the great orators of the past were able to memorize entire speeches and stories by envisioning a large building or coliseum and linking pictures to words to rooms. The mind is powerful when we think not only in according to numbers and words, but also according to images.

God bless the graffitist. People skilled at bombin, writin' and taggin' teach us that the mind is really a complete picture gallery of images. Graf artists often stand out for their ability to create murals and sagas on the cold hard walls of industrial societies, in which elitists have excluded us as Hiphoppas from the fruits of capitalism. We often must sift through the thorns and thistles of society to make money. Why should we trade our souls to make money?? Who are the artists that tell our story?? Where is our mythology?? Graf artists take care of that for us. They paint pictures of life, love, misery, and death. They compete among themselves by challenging each other to duels of imagery. They risk their freedom to tell stories for people who are otherwise speechless in a society driven by numbers and computations, where many creative people are just viewed as statistics. Graf artists. YOU are in HIGH DEMAND. Do some album covers. Help us advertise. Keep painting your pictures all over the walls of America and technologically advanced but civilly disturbed societies worldwide. Tell our pictorial story. Prove to the world through your mental pictures that imagination is more important than knowledge. Graf art is an invaluable asset to society….societies just haven't realized how powerful it is yet.

"You're used to doing something a certain way: You're used to hearing the music a certain way, you're used to moving, dressing, walking, talking a certain way. But when you're trying to tap into something new, I know doing the same thing ain't gonna get it."

-Andre 3000 of Outkast

We Hiphoppas are always dressed so fresh and so clean. Hiphop fashion has taken over America, and is slowly influencing the world. Isn't our Creator great? Never too early, never too late, but always on time! Urban is now the style. It's real. It's flavor. It's fresh. It's fly. It's original. Who doesn't want a part of that? Who's going to keep creating all these clothes, all these styles, all these trends? YOU, those of you with spatial intelligence. You who know color, you know size, you know shapes, you know what LOOKS good. You can see yourself wearing this. You can see yourself wearing that. You are in HIGH DEMAND. Keep doing you. Creators of fashion give us more ways to represent the soul that is within us. Sometimes we all get discouraged when we see all these rappers wearing the same shit. How many Air Force Ones can we buy?? How many different colored jersey's are there?? How many minstrel pinwheel hats are there??

All those clothing items were cool…..when they were original. Now everybody wears what everybody else wears. As

Hiphoppas with imagination, we represent Ancient Egypt. We represent the highest form of intellect ever known to humankind, and we can't even change our drawers!! C'mon, we can all do better than that. Sometimes brothas and sistas can't afford all that fancy shit. Our new philosophy as Nightjohn is to go left when all of ya'll go right. We're gonna zig whenever all of ya'll zag. Stimulate the mind's of the youth. Don't be afraid to express your own style. Represent the infinite soul of man and woman. Represent spatial intelligence.

Street entrepreneurs can SEE business opportunity where other's see possible failure and disaster. Having game is more than just spitting smooth words to influence people. Having game is about creating a pool of thought using street mathematics. Not only must you create a pool of thought, you must chlorinate the water, and keep your circle of influence clean.

Having game is about owning a business system. Having game as a street entrepreneur is about mastering a Divine VISION and Divine PURPOSE and communicating Hiphop's SIGHT to others. In Africa, and many other cultures throughout the world, people must have spatial intelligence to survive. Such forms of intelligence are rarely mentioned in schools throughout the world, and they are rarely ever considered vital to the success of people in society. What about street smarts? What about street mathematics? What about the ability to observe an environment, read people's body language, and peripheral vision?

Remember the movie Fresh. Chess is a type of game that illustrates this type of spatial intelligence. Chess illustrates the centrality of spatial intelligence – the ability to anticipate moves and their consequences. Chess players have great memories of moves across spaces with certainty. If you have this skill you are in HIGH DEMAND. Get off your ass, find you a legit hustle and go get your paper. The amount of money you make will be in direct proportion to your ability to unfailingly provide a product or service. It's simple, but it's not easy, because many don't have the spatial capacity to anticipate and strategize. You gotta be like Fresh in the movie and think about your moves and how they will affect others ahead of time. You must ever lack imagination, but always lack procrastination. You must have the skill of navigation, coordination with stars, and coordination with your perception of the world vs. others perception of the world. You must stay on point. Your spatial intelligence will not fail you.

"A man has to act like a brother, before you can call him a brother."

-El-Hajj Malik El- Shabazz (Malcolm X), Heart Full of Grace

Interpersonal-Social Intelligence

Are you your brother's keeper? Do you really love all your neighbors? Can you do unto others as you would have them do unto you? That's the Golden Rule, and it has never changed. That's right, not the platinum rule, The Golden Rule. The platinum rule is to keep nothing sacred and Selfishly scramble for money on a dog eat dog fight to the top (as characterized by the music

industry during the Platinum Age of Hiphop). The platinum rule was about competition. You can see where this mentality landed many people in society, locked up, dead, or mentally enslaved. The Golden Rule is about Creativity and Communication. The Golden rule worked fairly well in the Golden Age of Hiphop, though there were always aberrations. Now, as we exist in the Information Age of Hiphop, we must think about how information and entertainment affect our well-being and progress as a community. The Golden Rule still applies. The question is, how does it apply?

This is where YOU, our beloved sociologists come in handy. Your interpersonal-social intelligence is so valuable that we rely on your contributions to really measure our communication and interaction with one another as Hiphoppas. Your distinctions about how to use the power of empathy with others, gives us hope that we can change the world for the better. You can explain to us the irrational behavior of brainwashed rappers and sell outs. You can help us identify Ego cancers that are swelling up the heads of the wealthy, Selfish, and proud. You can help us bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots through programs that inspire ALL.

The ability to notice and make distinctions among other individuals, their moods, temperaments, and intentions is priceless. There are Hiphoppas right now in social service roles, counselors, politicians, diplomats, conflict resolution specialists, and peace keepers, who all represent Hiphop to the fullest. You are ALL in HIGH DEMAND. You deserve plentitude for all your contributions to the world of overstanding human nature. Write more, speak more, and get more money for what you do. Maybe our transition from poor righteous teaching will begin to shift to wealthy righteous teaching.

It is those with interpersonal-social intelligence who will help us understand how to explain to urban youth that poverty is a state of mind. We will be able to explain that wealth is also a state of mind. Despite his or her seemingly miserable surroundings, once a child knows he or she can choose a wealthy mind state or a poverty mind state, I'm sure many more children will choose the habits that lead them to wealth and not embrace habits that lead to poverty. Poverty in itself is a crime and the worst way to exist. Even with the oppressors force, there is no excuse for poverty. No human being is without gifts or talents. No human being is without something to offer on the world's open marketplace. What human beings don't have are enough leaders with enough courage to outthink, outsmart, and outperform ….the machines. Gratefully, our basic freedoms in America have been preserved long enough for us to still educate ourselves on how to provide a product or service in the open market of free enterprise. It is those who have skills in the social sciences and human services that will guide us toward the ever fulfilling Light of Awareness, Abundance, and Open communication.

"Education is painful and not gained
with playing games or being average."
-*Ma*rva Collins

Logical- Mathematical Intelligence

We must master all numbers. The realm of numbers is one place where we have weaknesses more than others. Again, there are a select few who have always been comfortable with numbers, even simple math as a child. If you are skilled in numbers, you are in HIGH DEMAND as a Hiphop mathematician. It is the mathematician's mastery of the world of objects that keeps machines running, computers calculating, and beats bouncing. When you were a child and you confronted the world of objects, and you assessed quantities and became skilled at that, you most likely are dominant in logical-mathematical intelligence. This form of intelligence is more about your analytical abilities than anything else. The key to mathematical skill requires a person to have logic and use reason to make decisions and solve problems.

Real math is one plus one, one minus one, and one times one. Maybe that's overly simplistic, but you get the idea. If you are good with numbers than you are probably good with other calculations of math as well. To succeed in business, it is necessary

to account for money. Having an overall consciousness about all the numbers in your life in personal and business finances allows one to combat the forces of financial predators.

Have you ever asked why we have a social security number attached to our names? Are we being tracked through computers? Is a social security number like a stamp on an assembly line? What exactly is the ultimate definition of "social security?" Do you feel secure knowing that government powers have to do is type in a nine digit number and pull up all of your spending habits, police records, and any other records? We're sure there's nothing to be overly alarmed about. The only "all seeing" eye is the Most High. It's just important to be aware of how much numbers play a role in human suffering. It is the imperialist use of the digits 1 or 0 that turn numbers into a civilized human's antithesis. Believe it or not, much is calculated to structure our society from racial demographics, to eating habits, to spending habits. It is this numerical statistical data that is collected and used to advertise and entice consumers. Not only that, once consumers are persuaded into giving up their power over purchase, many business take advantage of interest rates.

Are you familiar with definition of usury? Usury is the practice of lending money and charging interest at an exorbitant or illegally high rate. The Hiphop community must have skilled mathematicians who can school us all on logical-mathematical intelligence. If we are not skilled with analyzing numbers and thinking in numbers from a defensive standpoint, we are always at disadvantage in a society that operates off of pinpoint accuracy when it comes to statistics and numbers. Accounting is all about the world of material objects. In a capitalist society, the primary concern with businesses is how much of something we have or how much of something we don't have. We are concerned with assets and liabilities. Unfortunately, when it comes to human beings working for hourly wages at certain companies, the overall well-being, freedom, and vision of the common worker is drowned by the typical corporate training and brainwashing.

It is unfortunate that so many of us grow up in inner city neighborhoods, in broken families. When brown, yellow, red, children have few material possessions, there is sometimes nothing to count. How would math be emphasized at an early age? It is o.k. that many of us start off disadvantaged in the realm of mathematical intelligence. The sad part is that aside from verbal intelligence, math is the only other measure for success besides verbal skills in most public schools, especially inner city schools where art and music have been removed from the curriculum. We are all about speaking some Ebonics and street slang, so many of our children fall through the cracks of public schools. Many household's in inner cities are also dominated by mothers. The creative right brain ability of inner-city children is more dominant than analytical left brain. In our patriarchal society, as Hiphoppas emanating from the Age of Aquarius, we have an uphill battle. Luckily some of us were born with a glitch and we break the cool calculated sterility of the matrix with our fiery rebellious Leo attitudes!

"I wonder sometimes,
"Why am I alive? What is my Purpose?"
And I can always find a reason.

*-**LeAl**an Jones, Our America*

Intrapersonal Intelligence (Self-Knowledge)

Know thy Self, and thou shall know the Universe and God. Absolute knowledge of Self is absolute love of Self. Absolute love encompasses all things. The contents of our Self-education should always be a pursuit of Truth, Beauty, and Morality. Before you are a statistic, a socialized label, or a demographic, you are a unique valuable human being. YOU are the only YOU there is! Some of you grew up as only children. Some of you are very reticent. Some of you have grown up alone, maybe even with no parents. The chances are that if you've spent a lot of time alone with your Self in solitude, then you have Self-knowledge that is beyond average.

Knowing oneself is no laughing matter. Growth is sometimes painful and full of uncertainty and regret. Release yourself from dis-empowering thoughts. Always work toward embodying Self-empowerment and Self-reliance. Examine your strengths and weakness. Such an honest look at the facts of your own life will give you something that no other education can give you: Self-Confidence and Self-Esteem. As a man you are the only person that can make you a complete man. As a woman you are the only person that can make you a complete woman. In the end, the responsibility to get to know your SELF is ultimately yours.

If you know who you are, you are in HIGH DEMAND. The world needs more positive uplifting people to give others courage to be themselves. If you have followed all the principles of success, you probably have a clear Divine vision, Divine Purpose, clearly defined values, short term goals, long term goals, an expanded identity, a code of conduct, strategies, and tactics. Do you realize that if you have such a blue print for your life, that you are in the top 1% of the world's population!? You are a rare specimen. If you are not seeing the rewards to all your soul searching and Self-knowledge, you may not be doing enough for the greater good. It's all about lining up your principles, and pursuing constant and never ending Self-improvement. You ARE Hiphop.

YOU are your own strategy for Self-improvement. Sometimes we may be doing ALL the right things, but we haven't been doing them long enough to see lasting results. Give your SELF time to grow. Believe it or not, there is more for you to learn that will strengthen you and give you the wisdom you need to shine your Light on the world.

Be patient. The greatest aspect of having knowledge of Self is that you can learn to love your Self regardless of who or what is in your environment. Just like KRS-ONE mentioned in Ruminations, when you have no home, no job to go to, no school to go to, no car, no family, no parents, no friends, few clothes; you have the opportunity to know your Self. You have the opportunity to explore the unlimited potential within you. You can choose your lifestyle. Even with that stated, you do not have to go through such depths of disparity to have knowledge of Self. You do not have to hit rock bottom before you wake up. That is only reserved for the truly stubborn man or woman! You do not have to go through homelessness, imprisonment, and gun wars to represent that you are hard.

Being hard is doing hard things. It is hard to discipline your Self at all times. It is hard to look yourself in the mirror and admit you must lose weight and change your eating habits. It is hard to admit to your Self that you have a drug addiction. It is hard to admit that you are a sexual pervert. It is hard to admit that you have not been conscious of your spending habits. It is hard to not fall into America's traps. It is hard to be a man or woman of principle. It is hard to get off your ass, go into free public libraries, and educate your Self. It is hard to stand up in front of someone who hates you and says they want to kill you and you say, "I forgive you." Don't follow the Hollywood images of what tough or hardness is. That shit will get you killed or incarcerated, and what Purpose does that serve? The essence of Self-knowledge is completing the mission of your life from cradle to the grave with as little distractions as possible.

Do you have Self-knowledge? Knowledge of Self is a talent and a gift, just like singing, rapping, or shooting basketball. It is sad that schools do not honor and award children for having Knowledge of Self. In fact, most curricula in American schools are meant to erase a child's Knowledge of Self. Throughout the International Hiphop Community, more and more of us should honor and respect others who have knowledge of themselves. Such a valuable skill should be passed on from generation to generation. Despite the conspiracy of the board of education to force youth to socialize and assimilate, there will always be children with knowledge of Self, failing tests, getting bad grades, and dropping out of schools. Are these people just statistics. Maybe when there is a University of Hiphop, there will be a Hiphop school system so that discovering Knowledge of Self is rewarded and not ignored. What would a Hiphop Self-Mastery school be like? Who is brave enough to claim the Divine Purpose to start a Hiphop curriculum, which focuses on RIGHT knowledge, RIGHT education, and RIGHT respect for all of humanity. If you have to face scorn and ridicule because you have knowledge of Self and a vision, ignore it and complete your mission in life.

There are too many forms of intelligence that we have access to, for us to stop and give up because we fail in regular school. American schools are more for the trained brainless followers anyway. We write these words to inspire the kids who have been labeled as "mentally retarded" or "learning disabled." Nobody can ever tell you that you don't know your Self. Perpetuating ignorance is an inhumane crime! If so called authority figures, politicians, and teachers ignore a young person's demands to be released from class to acquire knowledge of Self, it is in the young person's best interest to stand up for his or her human rights and go out in the world, sit in the solitude of nature, build with the elders, learn from experience, and develop knowledge of Self. Anything less would be uncivilized.

9 Elements of Hip*hop*

Djayin'

Breakin'

Emceein'

Beatboxin'

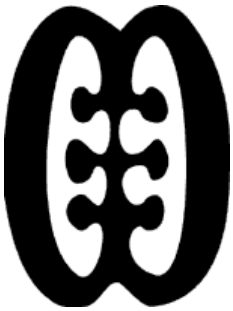
Graffiti Art

Street Fashion

Street Language

Street Knowledge

Street Entrepreneurialism



Are You Hip hop?

"Beat street is a lesson too,
Cause you, can't let the streets beat you!!"

***- Grandmaster Me*lle Mel**

We are Hiphop. What about you? If you were curious to open this book and read it's contents, you may be Hiphop. Where are you going as a Hiphoppa? Are you tru-skool, old school, new school, or mainstream? Maybe you can't be categorized at all?! Maybe you haven't created the new slang word to describe your form of Hiphop. What exactly is Hiphop? Most of us would agree that it is our collective consciousness. It is our awareness as well as way of life. A.K. and I have both been asked throughout our lives…Are you black? Hispanic? Mixed? Where are your parents from? I've had people ask me: What are you? When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed of a day when boys and girls of all races would laugh and play together, was he dreaming of Hiphop? When we ask you the question, "Are you Hiphop?" we are asking you if you prefer to be judged by the content of your character rather than race, nationality, religion, or origin. Is your life about how you look, who you hang out with, what job you do? Could your life not be about the values beliefs, thoughts, and organizing principles of your mind. This is why Self-expression is the main ingredient in a Hiphop driven life.

A Hiphop driven life is on in which you are pulled toward your Destiny by the major definite Purpose of your life rather than typical cultural or social programming. While the Teacha KRS-ONE may have been the first to realize and make popular the phrase "I Am Hiphop," a consistent shift in thinking brought forth by leaders like us and you will help people realize that this lifestyle is an honorable choice and is justifiable considering the current violent climate of world affairs. People too often get caught up in labels. We may call it Hiphop today in 2005. However this force, this love, this collective consciousness and awareness is nothing new. Brother Malcolm X had it, Martin Luther King Jr. had it, Ghandi had it, Tupac had it. Bruce Lee called it Jeet

Kune Do. Shall we even say it was not even a thing to be had. This awareness is a disciplined pattern of thought to be grasped and embraced by the act of perception itself. When we look at ourselves in the mirror, we don't see Bayo and A.K., we see the human form of our creator doing business as usual. God helps you as you help yourself.

Instead of labeling ourselves black, white, mulatto, American or African, we prefer to label ourselves as Hiphop. We are not denying our black people, our African roots, or our tradition and heritage. We are advancing a new, more refreshing identity. We are black men and we are Hiphop men. We all have labels. Why not pick one that fits you according to your interest and personal values; your character? We are Attuned Hiphoppas. We represent freedom of thought, word, action and Self-expression. Don't get us wrong, such a choice of definition is not the most comfortable in a society which is over industrialized and still under civilized. In a society where the dollar holds more value than the person using the dollar, we have to admit that being independent and overstanding such financial manipulation presents us with considerable resistance. Again, nothing new, it's business as usual. Likewise, in a region of the world where Christianity dominates mainstream belief systems, walking around saying "I Am Hiphop," takes a certain amount of balls, courage, valor, bravery, and sheer heart. We are Hiphop! Are you Hiphop?

Who are you? Why are you here? Answer these two questions and you are well on your way to a life of satisfaction, drive, happiness, and fulfillment. If you decide you are not Hiphop, there is nothing wrong with that. We do not impose Hiphop on others, we merely share our discoveries and style of life. As long as you are aware that there is a group of people preserving themselves, and preserving Hiphop, we have done our duty for ourselves, for you, and for the world. Whoever you are and wherever we are, know that we, the voice for Hiphop Kulture and word of Hiphop; know 1000% without a doubt that you are a valuable human being worthy of all the glory the Universe holds. Always keep in mind that the thought process of Hiphop shall always exist within you whether you value you it or not. It is YOUR CHOICE to sow seeds and reap the rewards of saying, "I Am Hiphop," What are the rewards? The rewards are whatever benefits, material and non-material, you gain living according to your own definition of peace and prosperity.

We assume you are reading this book because **A)** you are Hiphop and want to find strategies and tactics to be more Hiphop, or **B)** You feel an internal pull toward Hiphop Kulture (emcees, DJ's, breakers, beatboxin, and graf art etc) or **C)** You have an aversion toward Hiphop which causes your curiosity to search for anything negative to discredit our ability to BE Hiphop. The meaning of the terms "hip hop" and "hip-hop" are different. These are terms used on T.V., Radio, and mainstream magazines. These terms follow a basic media created stereotype. We don't deny the stereotypical displays are part of our Kulture. However, this book is raw freedom of thought from the spiritual body of Hiphop. These are pure original, real, words written by free Hiphoppas who barely even watch T.V. We care deeply about your future and your freedom as a member of the Hiphop generation. Therefore, no matter why you are reading this book, we know there is a reason, meaning, and Divine Purpose for your observation of our words.

We are ahead of our time. New knowledge is always met with resistance. We weather criticism valiantly. We willingly pay the price for being advanced thinkers with a mission to increase justice. But it's aight. That's what geniuses who live according to their life Purpose have a tendency to do. You are a Divine genius! We see you successfully being your Self as we even write this. We see you proud of discovering your Divine Purpose and fully using your talents and gifts. We see you ahead of your time, creating more and building civilizations ahead of your time. Who gives a fuck if people call you, we, or us, crazy now? The poor (in Spirit and riches) will become poorer and the wealthy (in Spirit and riches) will become wealthier. The dead shall bury the dead.

The name of our company contains the acronym: **O.L.O.R.U**.N. "Our Love Of Rap Unites Nations." Our business is one with our Spirit. We reach out to the entire world in our state of being, doing, and living. We cannot really represent a block, city, or country by itself, especially those we do not own financially. We are not just citizens of the old decaying American society. We are citizens of the world, and leaders of the new multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-lingual, progressive America. We represent the unity among people throughout the entire Earth in our state of being Hiphop. We represent the unity among people throughout the world for one common objective: L.O.V.E., a.k.a. -a progressive civilized way of life based on advanced human technology and potential. As our reader, whether a supporter of our ideas or a detractor of our ideas, you play a role in our Destiny. One can't help but love a so called enemy for teaching one the definition of hell. Even as a hater, evil doer, violent opponent, or elitist war monger, you have a Divine Purpose…even if it is to continue the cycle of destruction, murder, and war!! Without your resistance, LOVE would not have built up so many muscles all these years. LOVE is now ready to conquer all. Evil is losing Armageddon, the devil played hard, but must recognize defeat. Checkmate. As a valuable human being, if you are on the verge of suicide….STOP, there is more to your life than just taking your own death out of desperation and despair. Live to see the blessings of a new day. May your soul be guided.

Within the International Hiphop Community, there is a diaspora of red, brown, yellow, and Anglo-Saxon people who believe wholeheartedly in L-O-V-E. This belief in love matched with a major definite Purpose in life, is the foundation for the future of global peace, unity, and a distribution of equal wealth and the Earth's abundant resources. These enlightened, conscious, Spiritual people live, say, and put out energy which uplifts humanity. Our Divine Purpose as Nightjohn is to prove to you in thought, word, and action that we belong to this group of human beings, and we call many of these human beings in our circles Hiphoppas and attuned Hiphoppas. There are so many names for outstanding human beings that emanate love, we choose to let your imagination label them yourself. They do not all call themselves Hiphoppas and we respect that. Our label for our contribution to the Universe

is Hiphop.

Even if you casually say, "I Am Hiphop," then it is safe to say that Hiphop drives you. You are thus driven by your love, passion, and energy exerted in the name of Hiphop. How did we know that in the early 70's in the South Bronx, we would manifest a survival, Self-preservation lifestyle called Hiphop. We didn't. Our founders just lived it. The next wave of enlightened attuned Hiphoppas is taking shape as we communicate with you now in the Information Age of Hiphop. I, Bayo was born on August 11, 1980 at 11:22am. A.K. was born on July 20, 1986. We were born during the Golden Age, and grew up in the Platinum Age. Our form of drive is based more on communicating information and entertainment. Our Hiphop lifestyle is simply our vehicle for meeting all of our needs as human beings: comfort/certainty, discomfort/variety, Love/connection, significance, growth, and contribution. Therefore, our major definite Purpose is for us to be living breathing examples of lives driven by Hiphop appreciation and awareness. We strive to walk our talk and meet our own high standards of excellence.

The next question for your Hiphop driven life is where are you going? From the cradle to the grave, we must be, do, and have something in between. You must define for yourself, your own quest, identity, journey, or adventure in the world. The United States Army tells recruits, you can "be all you can be." If you join. We, the voice and word of Hiphop tell you that
"you can be all you can be" if you clearly write down a Divine vision, Divine Purpose, create a new identity, and develop your own code of conduct, goals, strategies, and tactics to make your vision real. The military serves it's Purpose in the United States and defending ideals of democracy, equality, and freedom is noble. Come on…you think we'd encourage you to join the military to raise your standards. Especially when the government's leadership, peacekeeping, and foreign policy is questionable. Hell naw!! "Be all you can be" by defining where YOU are going in YOUR OWN lifestyle. The marines say, "Honor, Courage, Commitment. The few the proud, the Marines." We say do you! Rep your Self with honor, courage, and commitment. Don't wait for your local Marine recruiter to step up to you and get you off your ass. Get your own Self off ya ass! The most noble cause is the liberation of your Spirit and soul. Know where you are going and let your drive, energy and passion get you there so there is still enough time in your life to enjoy the fruits of your labor. Live now, never look back, and keep moving forward.

Even though we may not know your personally, we know your kind. Something made you pick up this book and search. Something told you there was more. Something told you that you may find it if you search. We too searched and continue to search for the keys to unlock our bliss. We are kindred Spirits and souls. We feel you. We know where you comin' from. We got ya back. Great minds think a like. We know that we may have similar styles, approaches, and strategies. Imitating the skills, attitudes, beliefs, and patterns of success of great people is not copying. Be smart and model examples of those who get results. We want you to have what works, so we have distilled the wisdom through our Spirit, to show you what works. We feel your pain, your desire, your anger, and your hope.

The best we can do is reward your search by introducing ourselves as friends on your journey. Our words are here to help you BE YOU. Our words are here to uplift you, inspire you, and add meaning and Purpose to your life. Picking up this book and actually reading it was 90% of the struggle. You are in the top 10% of achievers in the world if you have even read this far!! Few people read independently, and even fewer people apply what they read in their daily lives. You are on of the few, the proud, the readers….the leaders. Readers are leaders. Join us as we walk unified toward our destinies strapped with information and entertainment on our hearts and minds, and the power to create at our fingertips.

Can you change the game? Who says the game has to remain the way it is? Does life have to be about a competitive scramble to the top of an imaginary food chain? No matter how many tall buildings they build, men and women must always come back down to the ground to eat, to live, to relate, to dance, to play, and copulate. You may not be at the bottom. You may not be at the top. Maybe what you thought was the bottom was the beginning. Maybe what you thought was the top was the end. See how it can all flip around. Every dog has his day. What goes around does come around. Maybe in our American capitalistic consumer society there is a hierarchy based on money. However, societies can change. More importantly, it's the people within society who must change first. If you are Hiphop and represent to the fullest, then you will change the game. You can't help but change it. Original Hiphoppas! Those of us who know we are going to change the game, know we are going to have an impact before we even start. We know before we enter the game that we were chosen to change it, if not influence it. How?? God only knows. Our Creator grants us the right to ask questions, find answers, seek knowledge, wisdom, and overstanding. Those of us who do not skip steps, pages, workouts, practices, tests of courage, challenges, and opportunities somehow meet with what is called "luck."

Attuned Hiphoppas like to speed our luck up sometimes to what some people call miracles, although that requires much more RIGHT knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and metaphysical calculations, and unremitting Self-discipline and resistance to temptation. Such people have unlimited mastery over words, numbers, and imagination. Individuals who meet these qualifications become super-humans, heroes, street disciples, and valiant warriors. Each one of you are unique, remarkable, and rare. Your individual potential is unlimited. It's all about what you do with it. It's never what you do, it's how it's done. If you feel this way, we know you too will change the game. If we all do our part, we'll not only change the game, we'll make irreversible progress.

When you as an individual say "I Am Hiphop," you are claiming an empowering identity that carries with it many ramifications. For now, in any oppressive regime, you become a political chess piece by default when you truly ARE Hiphop. It

's your choice what you want to be. For God sakes, don't be a Pawn, a Rook, or a Bishop. Be a King or a Queen. Hiphop carries with it so much social and cultural influence that Hiphoppas become targeted by activists, politicians, and so-called black leaders. The key for us as Hiphoppas is to not be swayed by the politricks of House Niggas, Uncle Toms, and cool politicians who talk sideways. The Truth is the Truth. Don't settle for less. Don't ask for peace, and settle for pieces of celebrity access. Speak Truth to power and expect justice in return. We can't stand politics at all. The Truth shall set us free. Nevertheless, many of us have used, and continued to use Hiphop as a political framework for finding ways to improve our neighborhoods, our communities, and the entire nation.

Using Hiphop within a political framework is very tricky subject matter. It may depend on how one is defining the term "Hiphop." It is important for us to point out that God did not create the Universe in a year, decade, or even century. For Supreme Being to manifest the totality of the physical Universe, it took forever. Speaking as the voice of Hiphop, we find conflict with the typical political dialogue within the United States. We're expected to come out overnight as a cohesive group and vote. Our challenges and obstacles, are not that we can't get together and get the right people in office, with the power of our movement. Our challenges and obstacles are maintaining our sanity on a daily, hourly, and minute by minute basis, so that we can truthfully have conviction that we are voting in a democracy. In an oligarchy, our sanity is threatened on a daily basis by competitive society. Right now when we cast our votes in 2000 or 2004, we felt like we are voting in an oligarchy or totalitarian regime. There has never been a female president. There has never been a president of color. Colin Powell is the closest, but we aren't sure what his soul represents. We don't want a person of color in office if they have no stand up character for Truth. He likes war, we like peace. Even if he was the first black president, he wouldn't count. We are more concerned about our leader's wisdom, deeds, and soul then we are concerned about their skin pigmentation. He's just as pink as his masters any damn way.

We realize the 2000 presidential election was rigged. We've all read that Bush and Bin Laden were oil buddies before September 11, 2001. We know that U.S. foreign policy dominated by financial influence is corrupt. We know that spiritual and mental battles must proceed political battles. We need Divine vision, Divine Purpose, goals, strategies, tactics, Self-discipline, commitment, and integrity. We will continue to help ourselves first. Let us get our priorities straight as Hiphoppas, then we'll come talk to the more mainstream American leadership who want us to get into politics. The African mind, Asiatic mind, Indian mind, and Hispanic mind does not separate church and state. We are holistic people. How many times does this have to be re-emphasized! The leaders among us are our greatest servants. We don't see too many people ready to serve us, so we don't consider many officials as having the potential to make a difference. For us, we need to get our shit together Spiritually before we hold any office. Give us 30-40 years, so we can produce more heroes, wise men, street disciples, Teachas, coaches, Kultural Specialists, and Lifeguides. We vote from within. We vote for voices OF Hiphop and voices FOR Hiphop. Hiphoppas have only been around for about forty years. We haven't had time to raise enough political candidates who can run for office! We don't see wise men and women running for office.

For example, take the word "authority. Writers are authors. We have authority over our written message. How can one write if one cannot read environments, people, places, social conditions etc. One must overstand and be well read in the original creation of American society to be able to write laws, pass laws, and ultimately delegate power to authority representatives, state and city officials, and police officers. As Hiphoppas, we see a challenge in asking us to participate politically when we haven't put our political candidates into the mix yet. Believe me, our political candidates must be able to emcee and move the crowd.

We overstand the entire system, so when black civil rights leaders who are elders ask us, attuned Hiphoppas, what we think about this candidate or that candidate, it becomes kind of a semantic game filled with mental masturbation and rhetoric. For the most part, there are so many political jedi mind tricks being played by the greedy few elitists that dominate this country's financial houses and lawmaking, that we are apathetic toward the current political process of the United States.

It's not that we don't understand. The real issue is that we fully understand and then some. We understand too much. We overstand. We know too much. We overstand so much that we see through all the smoke, screens, and mirrors. We are sick to our stomachs at all the pawns, tokens, and sell outs that try to relate to us by saying "Yo" and "What's Up". Our challenge is that we don't have the money, the manpower, media influence, time, energy, and resources to get the Truth to the people If we get RIGHT History, RIGHT Spirituality, RIGHT education, RIGHT inspiration, RIGHT specialized knowledge, RIGHT Skills, and RIGHT candidates to the people, they will know who the fuck to vote for. Believe us.

When we as Hiphop's leadership have to battle with MTV, BET, The New York Times, The Daily News, Hollywood, Clear Channel, Congress, The Senate, The Supreme Court, Colin Powell, Condoleeza Rice that's when apathy drifts in. We've been fighting imperialism, colonialism, racism, mental and physical slavery for over 6,000 years! Give us a break! We've been doing a good job as far as getting money. We could do better by directing our money toward political development. We still have to start our Hiphop Universities so RIGHT information is brought to the minds of our leaders. Many people in the United States try to exploit us and claim to care about our Hiphop way of life, when really they don't; that's when Hiphoppas are like fuck this shit man…give me some herb, some instrumentals, two turntables and a muthafuckin microphone….That's our political constituency, at least it was from 1965 to 2004.

We appreciate the insight provided by groups like the Urban Think Tank. We're getting to where we need to be politically, we'

re just moving very slowly. We need more and more people with a Divine Purpose to help Hiphop advance in its raw undaground state, not that watered down mainstream shit. The more ideas brought to the table, the more we have to sift through. Oh, we'll be a political force to be reckoned with. We just need time to build our team. We need time to get our ball players in line, our entertainers in line, our movie stars in line, our gangstas in line; basically all the people who are currently exploiting Hiphop and violating the Hiphop Declaration of Peace. They owe us a lot of money! Maybe we can strike a deal with them for reparations and fund our best political candidate. They've stolen so much from our Hiphop swagger it's not funny! It's time they pay up.

Yvonne Bynoe is the author of Stand and Deliver: Political Activism, Leadership and Hip Hop Culture. She is the president of Urban Think Tank Institute and has really emphasized some of the critical issues involved with our collective political identities as Hiphoppas. For the most part, she feels that we need more hands on work to help organize our political potential. According to her, we don't have a viable constituency right now. We agree with that. As stated above, we just have not raised our best Hiphop Kultural Specialists to put to the task yet.

This book, as it is written, is for us all as Hiphoppas to get some of our own personal priorities straight, so we can build toward more organized efforts from a community perspective. The Hiphop Driven Lifestyle is a way of life that emanates Hiphop by helping develop our youth's interest in valuable life management skills and engagement with issues that impact us and our communities. How can we be any good to a group effort, when we still are struggling to define ourselves as valuable men and women of honor, valor, and integrity. Everyday we compete with billion dollar media campaigns to destroy our way of life, radio monopolies that rob us of our freedom of speech, and internet obstruction that violates our privacy. We simply cannot get the word out that Hiphop has already won the victory over the streets! We are the Good News, only we can't explain it over all the commotion and bullshit average Americans are subjected to each day, caught up in the mad scramble for superficial money, power, and respect.

The O.L.O.R.U.N. Companies have a definite major mission to devise solutions, strategies, and tactics that can help individual Hiphoppas resolve conflicts, erase dis-empowering patterns of behavior, build up a sense of mission in life with congruency, and ultimately help us all evolve into higher levels of existence. Each Hiphoppa cannot have a personally chaotic life, if we are to hold political sway in the United States. Once we have a bunch of Hiphoppas at least on the same page mentally, physically, Spiritually, emotionally, and financially, agreeing about our strategies for Self-improvement, then we can devise solutions for the group as a whole.

Even by calling ourselves Nightjohn, we are representing Hiphop within a political framework. This is one way to get young people to begin to think critically about themselves, their world and their role as citizens. Sadly enough, many of our middle aged, men, women, and teenagers are mentally enslaved by ignorance, either by choice or by delusion. This book is a tool in your hands to break all ignorance down and classify it until it is shattered into bits and pieces and sprinkled over the Atlantic Ocean where our ancestors skulls and bones lie.

Since we are just now moving into the 21st Century, we have not yet been able to capitalize on the information age and entertainment age as a strategy to get Truth out to our people. For God's sake, the internet only became accessible to everyone in 1996! We'll be much further along in a few years. Hiphop used in a new socially and politically progressive way must include **Entertainment**, **Empowerment**, and **Excitement**. The only way to keep ourselves awake and mindful about our lives is to live our lives now. We cannot live our lives if we think sitting and waiting to graduate in university lectures, or hearing monotone professors drool on and on about the political process will get us freedom. WE change America with G.O.Y.A. (Getting Off Ya Ass)! We change it by conviction, decision, and action! We must uproot the political process and re plant it. Our first objective is to instill a warrior Spirit in all attuned Hiphoppas to fight Spiritually, mentally, and if necessary, physically for our right to world peace.

By keeping our ears to the streets and taking the pulse of 21st Century Hiphop philosophers, emcees, and poets, we have made a tremendous effort in accounting for positive and negative effects within our culture and communities. Undaground emcees are righteous people. We are doing everything within our power to counteract ignorance. In all Hiphop classes, programs, and alliance meetings we should all encourage our youth to ask the questions Yvonne Bynoe puts forth in her articles and book:

- What do the lyrics of this song really mean?
- Who controls Hiphop in terms of how rap artists are selected?
- What rap music is produced?
- How and to whom is rap music marketed to?
- What is the role of commercial radio in making rap hits?
- Who benefits financially from Hiphop?
- What personal and community values, principles and ideals does a particular rap song promote?
- Do we as young people agree or disagree with these beliefs and why?

The wrong historical knowledge is being taught in schools. Our youth nowadays have been bamboozled. They think fake gangsterism is being tough. Most kids have been psychologically pulverized. How the fuck are they supposed to acknowledge the struggles of the civil rights movement? They have a hard time making it through a school day of "do what you're told" and "try

not to get shot over stupid shit"? Bynoe mentions that many complicated steps were necessary to secure our current freedoms and options as the Hiphop generation. If only we could steal a couple of Clear Channel billboards and put up a message that reads: **Martin Luther King Jr. and Malc**olm X died for the freedoms most Hiphoppas now take for granted.

Don't you think that would help our youth instead of seeing liquor ads with bikini models draped on billboards? But no money is the dominant influence in our society, and because we attuned Hiphoppas have less of it, we cannot control the T.V. screens, radio waves, media publications, or advertising channels. Didn't the United States government higher Hitler's psychologists back in the day to learn how to manipulate consumers anyway? They are using the methods of Hitler to prevent us from having freedom of thought and freedom of speech and to keep the American public addicted to liquor, sex, and violence. Remember folks, we are dealing with the United States Government, a ruthless machinelike entity when it comes to money and power. It's hard to combat the conspiracy which is enslaving the minds of our youth. We have done at least a great job of passing on knowledge about the social and political events that came before us. We are getting the message out. As Hiphoppas, we now know more about the Nation of Islam, Civil Rights, Black Panthers, Five Percenters, Nuwaubians, and other organizations. Our youth aren't stupid, we are just denied access to information, money, and resources to make progress.

Our leadership is also beginning to have a broader range of roles. We have thugs as leaders. We have prisoners. We have reverends. We have warriors. We have college graduates. We have businessmen. We have sages. We have Spiritual gurus. We have emcees. We have Self-help masters. All of these individuals contribute to the thoughts of our Hiphop leadership. The only problem is that we have not been able to influence all of these charismatic powerful people to say in one big chorus, "We are Hiphop!" Of course, our leaders do carry a mystique, especially as entertainers. It is up to us if we want our leadership to maintain it's mystique or not. We kind of like not knowing what KRS is thinking or Nas or what Tupac was thinking. We all can't play our cards at one time. That's just our way of building respect. We like it when we aren't quite sure what powerful move one leader or another can make next. We should really discuss our differences behind closed doors, and present a united front to the world anyway.

Bynoe makes a good point about our outspoken leaders. However, she didn't mention in the article we read that if a Hiphop leader is famous enough to be on mainstream media circuits, he's damn well gonna have mystique. She suggests that we have leaders that are de-mystified and made accessible to a wider group of young adults. How are we gonna avoid the scams of a shadow government if we put all our leaderships card's out on the table? We personally know leaders that are leaders on a local or community level. Again, their good deeds are made known undaground but not in the mainstream. We need to keep looking undaground before we say this or that about Hiphop's leadership. Hiphop's true leadership is rooted in undaground thought, philosophy, and practice. It always will be until we emerge into the Light. To de-mystify our leadership may not do much for the people. The mainstream media will rarely put a positive, conservative, de-mystified image of our Hiphop leadership on Tell-Lie-vision. The only way for our youth to follow our leadership is to keep their ears to the streets. We recognize the fact that not everyone needs to be an out-in-front "leader" to have an impact and make a difference as a catalyst for progress.

Bynoe also mentions that at the community level and at the state and federal levels there is a great need for behind-the-scenes players such as media relations professionals, speechwriters, fundraisers, lobbyists, policy analysts, chiefs of staffs, legislative aides and attorneys. This transformation is slowly taking place in corporations as more Hiphop oriented people fill similar roles. One of the reasons we have created this book on Divine Purpose is to help individuals who have a passion for Hiphop skills get stronger convictions and really do some work for Hiphop on the inside behind those corporate walls. Again, the question as to how well a person can play the undercover game and still be true to SELF remains unresolved.

Are we ignorant or mis-educated? Should we as Hiphoppas understand how community groups, decision-makers and elected officials operate and function to serve their constituents? It would be a great idea to follow through on. Of course, first things are first. Do we as Hiphoppas know how WE operate? Are we confident in using 100% of our own brains? How have we advanced our levels of human technology? We are now in the age of advanced human potential. Peak performance drives our advancement. Are we performing at our peak as Hiphoppas, or do we need to keep raising the standards of our people?

Before we start studying all these social offices and attempt to understand bureaucracy, we must study ourselves. We cannot hope to successfully influence or persuade negative, narrow minded people who deal with red tape in bureaucratic offices to agree with our Hiphop agendas. First, we must successfully persuade and manipulate their mental reactions to our liking with our thoughts, words, and deeds. Our levels of communication are still climbing, and as we write this, Hiphoppas are researching ways to develop more effective interpersonal communication in our hoods and throughout the world. We can briefly learn about how community, city, or neighborhood initiatives work. First, we must be confident about how we work within our own minds, in our own hearts, in our own families, as well as in Mastermind groups, ciphers, and crews.

We must instill in our Hiphop youth a curiosity to learn and master the Constitution of the United States. Once we learn our basic constitutional rights, then we can evaluate what a democracy truly is, and how we can rebuild democracy in America despite the obstacles we face under the on going shadow government regimes. All the rock the vote shit, and political conventions look cool on T.V., but damn we don't even trust our public schools to educate us right! We can't stand the fact that we feel we are wiser than our own president when it comes to diplomatic relations with other countries. We hate watching T.V. and looking at all the generic white male presidents in suits and ties speaking King James' English in our direction. They don't even sit down in

the ghetto and talk to us in our language. They talk in our direction. We got sixteen year old Hiphoppas who feel they have a more knowledgeable world view than our entire current presidential cabinet! How in the world are we going to ask these enlightened young Hiphop minds to choose between dumb and dumber!?!

Now that we have covered some of our possible political responsibilities, let's get back to the nitty gritty of developing our Divine Purpose within Hiphop, our character, and our commitment to a particular skill or talent. Let us do this in memory of the great Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Dubois. As you well know, Hiphop consists of 9 core elements as agreed upon by feedback from Hiphoppas all over the world and empirical research. Let's take a look at each element, so that you are reminded of the effectiveness, meaning, and Purpose for the skills within that element. You are not just doing Hiphop, you ARE Hiphop! Which element represents your personality best? These elements are not exclusive. As we continue to make progress in our way of life, there will be opportunities for individuals to shine in these elements as well as advance these practices into more categories of elements that will combine to form Hiphop's molecular DNA structure.

For a clear, concise, accurate description of Hiphop's 9 elements, we turn to the Gospel of Hiphop, contributed courtesy of The Temple of Hiphop. We want to leave some vagueness in this section, so your imagination has a chance to explore the possibilities of Hiphop's 9 elements. Take this process very seriously. Your Divine Purpose could depend on it. Who are you? Why are you here? What are you highly skilled in? What do you do with effortless ease? What do you see your Self doing in 5, 10, or 20 years? What do you see as your lifetime achievement and legacy? First, take the time to answer the following three questions:

"KRS-ONE and Tony Robbins are two of the world's great Alpha male influencers. You know, the gigantic sized heroes that win people over even with physical presence. I'm an Alpha male too….and Omega, without beginning, without end. I represent the underdog. If I'm in front of thousands of people and you can't see me, I can always pile up all of our rhymes and books, and stand on top of those. That way you'll get a better view of my shine. I'll never fall short of being outstanding."

-Adebayo Alabi Olorunto

These refinitions are listed courtesy of The Temple of Hiphop (www.templeofhiphop.org). They explain in detail Hiphop's core 9 elements. Use these descriptions to stimulate your soul searching. Write down your thoughts, feelings, and ideas to capture your uniqueness and originality as it pertains to these refinitions:

1.) If I had enough money, what would I spend my time doing?
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2.) If I had only one year left on this Earth, I would learn how to:
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3.) When I was a child I loved to:
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R-10 **BREAKIN:** (The study and application of street dance forms) Commonly called Breakdancing or B-Boying, it now includes the once independent dance forms; up-rockin', poppin' and lockin, jailhouse or slap-boxing, Double Dutch, Electric Boogie, and Capo era martial arts. It is also commonly referred to as freestyle street dancing. The practitioners of traditional Breakin are called B-Boys, B-Girls and Breakers.

[1] Breakin moves are commonly used in aerobics and other exercises that refine the body and relieve stress. Dance and other rhythmic movement appear at the genesis of human awareness. Dance is also a form of communication. Break-dancing– acrobatic style of street dancing.

[2] Popularized by: James Brown, the Nicca Twins, Dennis Vasquez – the Rubber Band Man, Rock Steady Crew, Pee Wee Dance, The N.Y.C. Breakers, the Breeze Team, Michael Jackson, and others.

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R-11 **EMCEEIN**: (The study and application of Rap, poetry, and Divine speech) Commonly referred to as rappin' or Rap. Its practitioners are known as Emcees or Rappers. The Emcee is a Hiphop poet who directs and moves the crowd by rhythmically rhyming in spoken word. The Emcee is a cultural spokesperson. Technically, the Emcee is a creation of his/her community whereas the Rapper is a creation of his/her recording corporation.

[1] The word Emcee comes from the abbreviated form of Master of Ceremonies (M.C.). In its traditional sense, M.C. refers to the hosting of an event – the master of a ceremony or an event. In its ancient sense, to Emcee meant to pray or tocommunicate with God. It was used by the Greeks to communicate with their oracles and to pray to their gods. The earliest known form of Emceein was done by the ancient priest, sages and philosophers of Africa and Asia. Later in history, the ancient art of Emceein would be practiced by African Griots and Djelees as they went from village to village teaching history and life lessons to all who would hear. Emceein (or rhythmic speech) also appears at the genesis of human awareness. It is the language of the Teacha.

[2] Early Hiphoppas transformed the traditional character of the Master of Ceremony to include crowd participation routines and poetry. Today, the Emcee seeks to be a master of the spoken word, not just the best Rapper. Emceein (when properly understood) manipulates air through sound vibration in an attempt to alter or expand consciousness.

[3] Emcees also deliver lectures and other forms of public instruction. Most Emcees rate themselves on their ability to rock a party, speak clearly and/or tell a good story. Our Teacha KRS-ONE mastered all three. Know this. A talented Emcee almost always becomes a popular Rapper. But a popular Rapper usually never becomes a talented Emcee.

[4] Popularized by: Cab Calloway, Coke La Rock, Busy Bee Starsky, Cowboy, Melle Mel, Grandmaster Caz, Kool Moe Dee, Rakim, Saul Williams, Slick Rick, Big Daddy Kane, KRSONE, Muhammad Ali, and others.

R-12 **GRAFFITI ART:** (The study and application of color, light and handwriting) Commonly called Aerosol Art, writin, Piecin, Burnin, Graf and Urban Murals. Other forms of this art include Bombin and Taggin. Its practitioners are known as Writers, Graffiti writers, Graffitist and Graffiti artists. Also at the genesis of human awareness, writing on walls, trees, stones, clothing, etc. plays an important part in the development of human intelligence and Self-expression. Most inner-city children instinctively begin learning to write by writing on walls.

[1] Today, graffiti artists seek to be masters of handwriting and art. Graffiti artists rate themselves on their ability to write and/or draw a good story. Many have become graphic artists, fashion designers, photographers and motion picture directors. Graffiti – writing or drawing that is scribbled, scratched, or sprayed onto a surface.

[2] Popularized by: Taki 183, Phase 2, Stay High 149, Kase 2, Cope 2, TAT's Cru, Presweet, Iz the Wiz, Seen, Quik, O.E., Revolt, Dondi, Zephyr, Futura 2000, and others.

R-13 **DEEJAYIN:** (The study and application of Rap music production and radio broadcasting) Commonly refers to the work of a disc jockey. However, Hiphop's disc jockey doesn't just play vinyl records, tapes, and compact discs.

[1] Hiphop's Deejay interacts artistically with the performance of a recorded song by cuttin, mixin', and scratchin' the song in all of its recorded formats. Even beyond music and other forms of entertainment, Deejayin as a conscious awareness not only presents our style of musical instrumentation, it also expresses the desire and ability to create, modify and/or transform music technology. Its practitioners are known as turntablists, deejays, mixologists, grandmasters, mixmasters, jammasters, and funkmasters. Disc Jockey- presenter of recorded 'Pop' music.

[2] Popularized by: El Marko, Kool DJ Herc, Afrika Bambaataa, Jazzy Jay, Grand Master Flash, Grand Wizard Theodore, Kool DJ Red Alert, DJ Cash Money, Marley Marl, Brucie B, Chuck Chillout, Kid Capri, Afrika Islam, Jam Master Jay, and others.

R-14 **BEATBOXIN:** (The study and application of body music) Commonly refers to the act of creating rhythmic sounds with various parts of the body, particularly the throat, mouth and hands. Its practitioners are known as human beatboxes or human orchestras.

1 Beatboxin is about seeing and using the body as an instrument. Earlier versions of this expression included Handbone or Hambone. However, modern Beatboxin originates from the act of imitating early electronic drum machines.

2 The early electronic drum machines were some of the original beat boxes; and to skillfully imitate them was called Beatboxin. However, ancient Beatboxin was the ability to imitate the sounds of Nature with one's own body parts. Not only is Beatboxin a form of communication, Beatboxin is also found at the genesis of human awareness. In fact, imitating the sounds of Nature is at the very beginning of human communication, knowledge and survival.

3 Popularized by: Doug E. Fresh, Biz Markie, The Fat Boyz, DMX, Greg Nice, Bobby McFerrin, Emanon, Click the Super Latin, K-Love, Razell, and others.

R-15 **STREET FASHION:** (The study and application of street trends and styles) Commonly refers to the clothing trends of the inner-city. However, Street Fashion deals with all trends and styles of Hiphop Kulture—what's in and what's out regardless of the expression. Its practitioners are known as Hiphoppas.

1Self-expression through Street Fashion is an important way to present Hiphop's unique identity and ideology to the world. Street Fashion also represents the prominence of all Hiphop cultural codes, forms and customs. Not only is fashion a very ancient form of communication, but our expressed consciousness was (and still is) also represented in the way in which we adorned, colored and dressed ourselves.

2Popularized by: The Black Spades, The Savage Skulls, The Crips, The Bloods, Jew Man, Ron 125th, Dapper Dan, Shirt Kings, Lugz, FUBU, Karl Kani, Sean John, Wu Wear, Fat Joe 560, Phat Farm, and others.

R-16 **STREET LANGUAGE:** (The study and application of street communication) Commonly referred to as Black English, Urban Slang and Ebonics. It is Hiphop's language and linguistic codes—the verbal communication of the streets.

1 Advanced Street Language includes the correct pronunciation of one's native and national language as it pertains to life in the inner-city. In addition, advanced Street Language deals with one's communication even beyond what one says. Street Language is not always spoken words. Hiphop's Street Language includes certain street codes that may not be communicated in words at all. Its practitioners are known as Hiphoppas.

2 Popularized by: Richard Pryor, Martin Lawrence, the Last Poets, Chris Rock, The Watts Poets, James Brown, Gil Scott Heron, E-40, DJ Hollywood, Lovebug Starsky, Nas, Fab 5 Freddy, Frankie Crocker and others.

R-17 **STREET KNOWLEDGE:** (The study and application of ancestral wisdom) Commonly refers to the basic common sense and accumulated wisdom of inner-city families. It consists of techniques, phrases, codes and terms used to survive within the inner-cities. It involves the ability to reason soundly with or without the ideas or validation of the traditional academic mainstream. Street Knowledge is the accumulation of Hiphop's cultural Self-awareness.

[1] Its practitioners are known as Sister, Brother, Goddess, God, Earth, Mother, Father, Teacha, Queen, King, Princess, Prince, Lord and Divine.

[2] Contrary to the myth that knowledge is only accumulated in quiet, ordered, academic environments, much of Hiphop's communal knowledge can be found with its comedians, poets and authors. Hiphoppas learn and transfer knowledge through laughter and having fun. Streetwise – knowing how to survive modern urban life.

[3] Popularized by: Malcolm X, Dr. Cornell West, Martin Lawrence, The Tree of Life Book Store, Revolution Books, The Shrine of the Black Madonna, Afrika Bambaataa, Clarence 13X, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Kwame Toure, KRS-ONE, Chuck-D, Nas, Dick Gregory, Chris Rock, Tupac Shakur, Keenan Ivory Wayans, Sista Souljah, and others.

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R-18 **STREET ENTREPRENUERIALISM:** (The study and application of fair trade and Hiphop business management) Commonly referred to as street trade,…having game, the natural salesman or …the smooth diplomat who creates business opportunity. It is the readiness to engage in the creation of a business venture that brings about grassroots business practices. Many of Hiphop's cultural apprenticeships are included here as well.

[1] Different from entrepreneur-ism which may include the techniques and practices of the entrepreneur, entrepreneurial-ism focuses upon the motivating Spirit to be Self-employed, inventive, creative and Self-educated. It is this Spirit; the Spirit of Self-creation, the urge to create and sell one's own talents, discoveries and inventions that is encouraged by the Temple of Hiphop. Its practitioners are known as hustlers and Self-starters. Entrepreneur—a Self-motivated creative person who undertakes a commercial venture.

[2] Popularized by: Madame C.J. Walker, Russell Simmons, Luther Campbell, Sean P. Diddy Combs, Suge Knight, Jack the Rapper, Robert Townsend, Scott La Rock, the Nation of Islam, Eazy E, The Black Expo, Too Short, and others.

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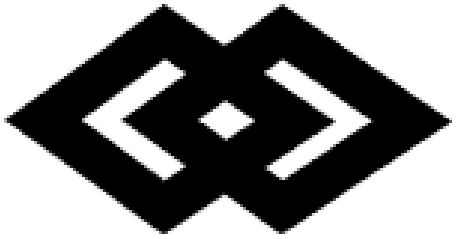


"Right now, a lot of you are helping history to repeat itself; you don't believe you should be free. Of course you want to be free – in various ways, not just free of school. However, society gives you so many condescending, false and harmful messages about yourselves that most of you wouldn't trust yourselves with freedom. It's all complicated by the fact that the people who infringe most dangerously and inescapably on your freedom are often those who say they are helping you, those who are convinced you need their help: teachers, school counselors, perhaps your parents."

-Grace Llewellyn

Bayo vs. The Board of Education

I, Adebayo Alabi Olorunto a.k.a. "Bayo"; including Arnett Kale Powell a.k.a. "Divine" are Attuned Hiphoppas, Kultural Specialists, and the sole members of the rap group Nightjohn. We represent The O.L.O.R.U.N. Foundation, an organization dedicated to advancing freedom of thought worldwide. We apply specialized knowledge, wisdom, and overstanding of African and Hiphop cultural awareness, literacy, and education to promote Self-education outside of the flawed educational system in the United States of America. On behalf of the International Hiphop Community, we officially charge the United States Department of Education, including various state and local Boards of Education, for violating the human rights of millions of young Americans, Africans, and Hiphoppas within the United States of America. Herein is a petition that will be distributed on the internet, by e-mail, regular mail, word of mouth, and live gatherings. This petition will be signed by millions of young Americans, Africans, and Hiphoppas for the Divine Purpose of helping students realize their civil liberties and human rights in schools. We side with equality, justice, and freedom in the condemnation of the totalitarian practices of this educational system for restricting mental freedom among our people, particularly inner city youth of all shades, colors, cultures, religions, and ethnicities from the ages of five to twenty five. Our people are suffering in mental bondage as a result of this totalitarian regime; which has also extended into public education, from elementary to university levels. We declare our right to state our case against a multitude of violations made by the United States Department of Education, in its institutions, legislative decisions, and policies.

I, Adebayo Olorunto, voted for President Al Gore in the 2000 presidential election, it was the lesser of two discouraging choices, nevertheless I exercised my right to vote in our so called democracy. I did not vote for George W. Bush or a shadow government. Many of our people did not vote for George W. Bush or a shadow government. As a result of our denial to access secret information about secret societies and elitist organizations, no one in our country is capable of determining the Truth about which president won the actual vote of the people. Our people never agreed with the counting of the votes. We declare that the election was officially rigged and manipulated in favor of our current president, which, one, violates the definitions of democracy in the constitution, and two undermines the intelligence of the American body politic. We want to live in democracy, not oligarchy.

As the 2004 election approached, we were concerned with the outcome of this election, because we have lost faith in the voting process of the United States of America. Therefore, neither I Bayo, nor A.K. voted. We felt it would contradict our moral convictions to vote for two men who we feel do not meet our ethical and moral standards of presidential leadership. Most young Americans, Africans, and Hiphoppas reluctantly voted for the lesser of two evils. However, we know that to help our people and our communities, we must have people similar to our liking in government offices that reflect our diverse character, beliefs, philosophies, ideas, and opinions. Because the educational system has attempted to remove these qualities and convictions from our minds and hearts, we have no choice but to act in personal Self-defense, and begin Unlearning, home schooling, and unschooling ourselves to gain True liberty, life, and the pursuit of happiness. Many of us will simply drop out of schools in mass numbers, get G.E.D.'s, begin educating ourselves at home, and organize private schools that are more suitable to our civil liberties and human rights.

We are highly suspicious of all legislation taken under any presidency from the dawn of the 21st Century forward. Any such presidency closely resembles an oligarchy and totalitarian regime for us to have faith in its policies and legislature; especially for

education. Under the regime, as a result of the 2000 presidential election, several members of the United States Department of Education were appointed, serving as chief officers to perpetuate the corrupt public educational system within the United States, under the guise "Senior Officials – U.S. Department of Education."

From 2000- 2004, these are the so-called leaders who have been upholding a system which was already ill and diseased with a variety of psychological cancers, destroying the free thinking will of the American people. These are also the offices; which will year after year receive millions of signatures and letters from youth who have signed this petition in every city, every ghetto, every town, and state in America. We are concerned that the thought viruses spreading in public education and schools will continue to spread after 2004 into the next decade and beyond resulting in a technologically dependent population of socialized Neanderthals. We are concerned with the future of our children and the future of our children's children. In the future, even if the leaders in power may change, through a regime change, they most likely will not make drastic progress in public schools in the United States; We must be able to vote for government officials who reflect our True character, beliefs, and ideas, not just mere "Tokens," "Uncle Toms," "House Niggas," and "Minstrels" that were placed in positions of power based on brown skin color instead of character. Therefore, we choose to advocate reforming the entire system. Hence, the Purpose of this petition. The regime over public education in schools only perpetuates it's ailments and the ailments of young Americans, Africans, and Hiphoppas. The following is a list of our grievances against such a regime, and its totalitarian violations:

1. Too many American, African, and Hiphop students learn neither an intellectual process nor a knowledge base, nor acquire habits that promote curiosity, Self-study, learning by doing, and Self-mastery. Nor do these students learn the strategies for overcoming traps set in competitive society to destroy them through genocide.
2. Most teachers are generous, intelligent, and beautiful people and believe they are doing the right thing. The system is simply much bigger and stronger than individual teachers efforts. Teachers are victims of the U.S. Department of Education, State, and Local Boards of Education just as much as students. They have been violated in other various ways, which is out of the scope of this petition. They should unite to form a similar petition for their rights to be free-agent teachers.
3. The U.S. Department of Education operates under a totalitarian regime to obstruct teenagers from pursuing TRUE democracy which would destroy the powers of mass production and rat race consumerism. Many adults' visionary tendencies have been canceled out by society by the age of 16. Misery loves company and thus it is forced upon youth.
4. Brainwashing has become a major time-consuming activity in American education at all levels due to:
    a. Emotional stress, shock, or de-sensitization. To break down both intellectual and emotional resistance.
    b. Isolation, whether physical or emotional, from familiar sources of emotional support in resistance.
    c. Cross-examining pre-existing values, often by manipulating peer pressure
    d. Stripping the individual of normal defenses, such as reserve, dignity, a sense of privacy, or the ability to decline to participate
    e. Rewarding the acceptance of the new attitudes, values, and beliefs-a reward which can be simply release from the pressures inflicted on those who resist, or may take other symbolic tangible form.
5. The whole history of schools and departments of education has been one of desperate, but largely futile, attempts to gain the respect of other academics – usually becoming theoretical and research oriented, rather than by improving the classroom skills of teachers.
6. The education system conforms to the needs of those who have enslaved and oppressed weaker peoples such as Africans and immigrants.
7. The same educational process which inspires and stimulates the oppressor with the thought that he is everything and has accomplished everything worth while, depresses and crushes at the same time the spark of genius in the young, American, African and Hiphoppa by making him feel that his people do not amount to much and never will measure up to the standards of other people. The African and Hiphoppa thus educated is a hopeless liability to the International Hiphop community.
8. The focus of schools is to eliminate freedom for the Purposes of learning, forcing young people to sacrifice freedom for learning which is ineffective.
9. Free minds and Spirits are quieted, numbed, manipulated, and restrained while forced to memorize and regurgitate facts instead of build intellect, wisdom, and saleable skills.
10. Permanent records are kept of children's school performance. This would be inexcusable even if there were nothing in the records but academic grades. It is nobody's proper business that a certain child got a certain mark in a certain course when she or he was eight years old.
11. The separation of church and state; which violates the inherent need of holistic Self-education, a necessary cultural identity among young Africans and Hiphoppas; creates a lack of religious tolerance and Spiritual understanding. This perpetuates racism, rage, violence, and prejudice and decreased morality within cities across the United States.
12. Keeping school records secret from children and/or their parents, a practice that continues in many places even where the law expressly forbids it.
13. Making these records available, without the permission of the children or their parents, to whoever may ask for them – employers, the police, the military, or other branches of government.
14. Filing records, as experience has shown they are filled, with many kinds of malicious and derogatory information and misinformation. These may include not just unconfirmed teachers' reports of children's misbehavior, but also all kinds of pseudo-psychological opinions, judgments, and diagnoses about the children and even their families.

15. Compulsory psychological testing of children, and including the results of these tests in children's records.
16. Labeling children as having such imaginary and supposedly incurable diseases as "minimal brain dysfunction," "hyperactivity," "specific learning disabilities," etc.
17. Compulsory dosing of children with very powerful and dangerous psychoactive drugs, such as Ritalin.
18. Using corporal punishment in school, which in practice, often means the brutal beating of young children for very minor or imagined offenses.
19. Lowering students' academic grades, or even giving failing grades, solely for disciplinary and/or attendance reasons. Not only is this practice widespread, but school administrators openly boast of it, though what it amounts to in fact is the deliberate falsification of an official record, a kind of printed perjury.
20. In all of these matters, and indeed in almost any conflict between child and the school, denying anything that could be fairly called "due process."
21. Claiming that school hours, typically 8a.m. – 3pm are used solely for teaching. In reality, 6 hrs of schooling is impractical. Most of this time is spent disciplining students, gossiping, handing out paperwork/worksheets and organizing.
22. Purposely leaving out in depth intellectual studies of subjects (from grades K –12) that affect the REAL life challenges young people face as they enter the world including Art, Music, World Religion, World peacekeeping, Cults, Personal Finances, Emotional intelligence, Communication skills, Sexual intimacy/maturity, Decision making/problem solving, Street knowledge, Street language, and Street entrepreneurship.
23. Purposely leaving out in depth intellectual studies of subjects (from grades K-12) that affect the well-being of individuals living in competitive capitalistic society including Spirituality, Metaphysics, Masonry & Secret Societies (Which are the principles government officials use to congregate and build wealth), Brainwashing tactics, Mind Control, Advertising techniques, Ancient Egypt, The Destruction of Black Civilization, Modern Propaganda, The Laws of Maat, Prosperity Laws, Strategies of The World Bank, U.S. International policy
24. Preventing the African and Hiphop minded young people from spending time in deep solitude, silence, and contemplation to sustain a fundamental cultural practice, (attaining Knowledge of Self) outside of a restrained school building. Arresting young people for truancy if they attempt to spend time on themselves attaining Knowledge of Self out side of public schools.
25. Collecting and hoarding knowledge and information. Cornering markets by closing professional fields that were previously open to anyone with skill. This creates the need for a degree to work in "professions" that used to be open fields to all Self-educated people; allowing the elite to sell knowledge at higher prices to forces people to believe only what is taught in school is "worth" something; which freezes the class structure of society and locks the poor into poverty.
26. The pressure of grades only promotes temporary learning. In the long run, pressure is an ineffective substitute for curiosity and the freedom to pursue those things you love. People only remember and think about things they care about.
27. Grades are not an accurate measure of intelligence. They are based off of co-operating with what teachers say and reflect whether teachers like or know you. Even in an objective science sense, grade are not accurate measurements especially due to time pressures.
28. Grades are not an accurate measure of human traits such as courage, compassion, curiosity, or common sense. Grades do not promote learning from experiences or mistakes.
29. Schools require passivity. Sitting and doing worksheets and assignments does not allow students to be proactive, taking an active role in their Self-education.
30. Schools throw too much busywork in students faces not allowing students sufficient time and space to digest knowledge, for their mental, physical, and Spiritual well-being.
31. School people care more about appearances than learning. Dress codes, procedures, and "classroom etiquette" discourage comfort, a necessary ingredient for absorbing information.
32. School isn't challenging enough for gifted students, who Are intelligent, extra curious, or academically inclined. Serious students are distracted by busywork, and other students who cause commotion because they are helpless victims of such busywork as well. The enlightened student is forced to suppress genius and conform which is a retardation of growth, leadership, and evolution.

33. School emphasizes learning backwards, providing the students with answers instead of emphasizing questions. Students then take notes, attempt to memorize notes, and regurgitate facts on tests like robots. Such effort is harmful to a students ability to use logic and reason weighing both sides of facts. Plato, Socrates, & Leonardo Da Vinci, philosophers, and inventors in the world have always emphasized FREE curiosity and questions as being the hallmark of intelligence. Intelligence is the ability to make numerous distinctions about a fact, idea, or experience, by evaluating (asking questions), not rote memorization.
34. Schools emphasize being a jack of all trades and master of none, discouraging Self-mastery. Students are forced to lower their standards to mediocrity by taking on 3-7 subjects at a time, rather than focusing on mastering 1 or 2 they really love and enjoy.
35. Schools stifle a students ability to embrace change, uncertainty, and the unknown by closing the doors to opportunity, screening students from reality in all it's definitions.
36. By demanding center stage in the life of a young person aged 5-25, school becomes center stage in life, leaving many people socially retarded, confused, and emotionally feeble. Time in school blocks out (prevents) learning, it also prevents learning outside of school. It drains the student's time and energy.
Schools make learning so unpleasant and frightening that they scare many people away from joys and pleasures of learning naturally in life. Many things we ACTUALLY learn from are not called learning by schools (browsing libraries, observing nature, visiting museums, participating in Hiphop's 9 elements.
37. In school or out of school, learning is the student's responsibility. Hence, learning is not the product of teaching. Students already teach themselves, they just do it in the company of totalitarian teachers, and other students who are victims.
38. Schools basically only provide equipment and teachers. They do far more damage with schedules, grades, compulsory attendance, authority, dull textbooks, busywork, sterile atmospheres, too much homework, and teachers. Helpers, tutors, mentors, apprenticeships and equipment can all be organized outside of school.
39. Most teachers only know about classroom management and not knowledge. They merely know how to threaten, or cajole a class into quietly doing busy work. Teachers should not dictate, and should only speak when they are asked meaningful questions by a curious student. Often teachers over step their boundaries.
40. The people who thought up American education were greedy and Selfish. They did not trust children to learn, and they did not trust the "lower classes" to want their children to learn.
41. Party of the early objectives for schools was to create obedient factory workers who did not waste time by talking to each other or daydreaming. This industrial indoctrination continues full force in schools today, turning out people who conveniently obey authority, don't think too much, and work hard for little reward.
42. In early society, schools took on the task of stamping out "minority" and other different cultures. Native American schools were more like jails and run along military lines, with roll calls four times a day as quoted by Sioux medicine man Lame Deer in Lame Deer, Seeker of Visions.
43. Schools have always existed in co-operation with unjust laws against America's youth under the ages of 18 to "babysit" them so parents and adults can expend themselves in a competitive society, produce more work, and more tax money for the government. Faith has long been lost in America's youth. The U.S. Department of Education wants to restrict America's youth from competing in the job market or running loose in the streets.
44. Schools weren't started to provide millions of jobs for teachers,

administrators, and maintenance people, and office workers. Since they provide these jobs now, the main Purpose of schools is business and producing tax revenue.

45. People all across America have been hoodwinked and bamboozled because they are mystified, shamed, and intimidated into believing in compulsory education.

46. School "authorities" suffer from arrogance and indulge in power trips to induce forced learning and attempt to speak over the head of parents and students.

47. The K through 12 yearly grade escalation sequence is really an indoctrination process of slowly building shame and suppressing a young child's natural curious appetite for learning. Students are brainwashed into believing that they can't make it in society without school. Before many students catch on, it's too late and because of their lack of belief in themselves they are really lost and feel they can't make it without school. They either die in poverty or submit to jobs they hate. (This has caused an upswing in the Self-help industry made popular by FREE Self-educated individuals like Anthony Robbins and Les Brown who help people dream again and believe in themselves again.)

48. Adolescence is a time of dreaming, adventure, risk, wildness, and intensity. All over the world, throughout the history of the world, indigenous cultures provide various ritual experiences to adolescents, bringing them into contact with the deepest parts of themselves and their heritage to equate life with meaning or Divine Purpose. Although, we do not advocate any and all practices; we believe they should not ALL be wiped out totally. In the United States of America, immigrants have been mentally coerced into abandoning their original practices lending to a much more assimilated sterile growth process through adolescent years. This results in higher teenage pregnancies, drug use, gang violence, and other "perverted" ritualistic activities students use for significance.

49. School is a way for American society to prevent visionary experience because otherwise 90 percent of our monoculture would shatter. Unawakened people are less likely to question the things in our society which are horrifically dull and ridiculous.

50. Schools, teachers, and parents are manipulated by the government and it's boards to blatantly lie to students, to tell them they are out of touch with reality if they attempt to dream "too much." The Truth is, teenagers are out of touch with the expectations and patterns of an un-real industrial man-made society. Visionaries are in touch with the reality that counts.

51. Schools ridicule and make fun of students the same way hierarchical societies have done for years; with a need to put people down like women, Africans, Attuned Hiphoppas, and immigrants.

52. Schools put students into intense, forced contact with people their own age. It discourages you from making friends with other people. Young people can teach younger children and learn from elders, giving them a deep sense of Purpose. Instead, they are directed like sheep with people who share the same birthday.

53. School teaches frenzy, hurry, rushing, pre-judging, impatience, and insanity. This feverish attempt to conquer time is in violation of the Universal law of least effort.

54. School creates meaningless, superficial, burdensome problems for a young person to solve. Most time in school is spent forcing kids to get along with people that are unreasonably ignorant. Students are forced to be around whoever was born in their year and shares a similar "tag" like last or first name. In the "real world," people choose their surroundings, and challenges.

55. School forces people to have an incurable guilt trip. If students

spend their energy on what they care about they are forced to be guilty. Students are rewarded to forget about who they are internally and do what they are TOLD.

56. Schools blame students for the illnesses, perversions, crime rates, and inadequacies. They inflict nasty experiences on you and tell you it's not your fault for liking it. Schools blame students for THEIR problems.

57. School conditions students to live for the future, rather than live for the present. Most schools "prepare" students for living in the "real world" instead of actually allowing them to live and learn in the "real world."

58. Elementary, Middle, and High School in formal institutions is not mandatory for college. Home schooling or Unschooling is as beneficial, if not better, allowing a student to gain maturity and come to his or her own decision about pursuing the business of colleges or universities.

59. Studying "culturally literate" subjects that are biased from an American slant on the facts do not make proper citizens, nor do going to school all day and obeying authority as if students live in a dictatorship. "Core knowledge" and "Cultural Literacy" conveys a view of learning that is superficial and anti-intellectual.

60. Students do not need school to participate in extracurricular activities like band, sports, or choir etc. Only if a student is willing to trade his or her freedom for a lottery like chance at pro sports (NBA, NFL etc.), would going to school only for sports or extracurricular reasons make sense. The choice however, should be left up to the student, not the parent, teacher, coach, or administrator.

61. Addiction to T.V., video games, Music videos, and pornography are a by-product of schooling. Schools don't encourage people to take action. Students get trained like dogs to sit passively all day, not taking initiative. If students had a noble cause, dream, vision, Divine Purpose, or goals, they would be more interested in those personal fulfilling accomplishments instead of wasting time until the next school day full of torture.

62. Home schooling or Unschooling is portrayed as only for "religious extremists" or "survivalists" By the U.S. Dept. Of Education. It is not about parents having to teach. Parental, family, and friend relationships flourish when students feel better about their own lives.

63. Among adolescents, school is an obsessive popularity and conformity contest to see who has the best "gear/clothes," cars, most sexual partners (girlfriends/boyfriends) the toughest persona, and the most rebellious attitude. These false social pressures are counterproductive to learning.

64. Instead of working together and promoting synergy, schools call such efforts "cheating," when really what's being cheated are genius minds ability to help each other climb and solve problems.

65. Due to money, if students decide to leave schools by hundreds, thousands, and millions; school people, teachers, and others will panic about their jobs. Is it more important for the United States to have "job positions" to produce tax revenue than free-thinking young people to promote democracy?

66. Schools fail to pre-scribe education based on ten multiple intelligences; which have been found to distinguish various types of learning in a multitude of ways. Schools mostly focus on spatial mathematical and verbal linguistic, for the most part leaving out the others. School curriculum is targeted exclusively to linguistic and logical capacities and concerns

67. Standardized testing has a total emphasis on linguistic and logical skills, leaving out interpersonal (social), musical, and intrapersonal (Self-knowledge).

68. Education took place long before there where such things as "schools" and now the media/world wide web is as powerful an agent of dispensing information and knowledge as schools are.
69. Colleges have become especially competitive by marketing through slick brochures through public relations admitting less and less students who apply. The image of the college has become more important, not what happens on campus.
70. It has become a "myth" that a "big name" institution is an assurance for a quality education when it will make no difference besides draining more tuition money out of parents pockets. Academic prestige is usually research prestige. Professors teach less and less.
71. College tuition is steadily rising for the benefit of chancellors, administrators, deans at the expense of parents and students. Reasons for raising tuition are costs, most costs are created for frivolous expenditures.

What would happen if everyone dropped out of school and began to think freely? It would be like a dam that breaks and the water would flow free, maybe even washing and cleansing all the dirt and filth that has built up throughout the history of the United States. The educational system is like a bunch of dams containing the people's free thought. The question to a young American student is: What will life be like if everyone dropped out of school and took their own path of Self-mastery to succeed? Mental freedom on a national scale would be truly a sight to see. Would everyone learn Self-mastery for once and live in euphoria?

Life is sometimes difficult for entrepreneurs because we do not follow socialization. It is more difficult and challenging for an entrepreneur to succeed, by our definition, according to Divine Purpose. We do not like taking the mainstream path. Entrepreneurs become highly skilled at making connections beyond the norm. Sometimes entrepreneurs really do have to be "jacks of all trades," and "masters of all trades," The pressure is too intense, to not master something. Therefore, entrepreneurs are also feared by certain people, in the sense that entrepreneurs are mainly free thinking Self-empowered people. We, entrepreneurs are the American dream. If you want to overthrow oppressors, be an entrepreneur.

Entrepreneurs also embody the failure of the formalized, socialized, original establishment in educating America's youth. The people who are caught up with mainstream institutions, and stressful jobs, for some reason cannot break the fear of embracing the unknown. Bill Gates proves that wealth is a symbol of Self-education. We know the monetary result of that Self-education. Think about the fulfilled dream aspect. He gets to live the life he wants everyday. Do you? Usually you find entrepreneurs with some type of formalized education that took a turn for the worse. Most entrepreneurs find that the original traditional path was more detrimental to their minds than beneficial. For Self-made people, Self-education is the rule, not the exception.

Also, the educational system leaves out important attributes to the growth and development of human civilization. People lose touch of how to be a man and how to be a woman; losing their sense of Self-expression especially in regard to gender and identity. So called patriarchal authorities have attempted to dominate the entire development of this society, even as the colonies were established. The authority goes back to the roots when the U.S. was being colonized. Then later, as industrialization expanded, the government had to contain the people in one mental thought process to mold citizens of the United States into an ordered society. At the advent of the industrial age, robots (trained people) were needed to fill the various positions within a factory. To maintain the economy with regularity, there must be people who are trained. The question is: Are you a citizen of the United States industrial complex or are you a free thinking citizen of the world?

The Real World
Visualizin' Realism

"And so… Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness. 'If you want to be important—wonderful. If you want to be recognized—wonderful. If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.' (Amen) That's a new definition of greatness. And this morning, the thing that I like about it: by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, (Everybody) because everybody can serve. (Amen) You don't have to have a college degree to serve. (All right) You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. (Amen) You only need a heart full of grace, (Yes, sir, Amen) a soul generated by love. (Yes) And you can be that servant."

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., ***The Drum Major Instinct***

Let's get realistic, living out your dreams ain't easy…or everybody would do it! What is realistic then? What do you think reality is? Is reality a construct? Is reality an equation? Is reality energy? How many of us are tired of seeing fake ass people, with fake ass agendas, and fake ass facades doing fake ass things! To quote the Teacha KRS-ONE: "It's not about a salary, it's all about reality!" Looking at the world from the inside out is quite different. We see the world differently than the average brainwashed American citizen. Rather than being preprogrammed by socialization, acculturation, and assimilation; we are about Self-preservation. Nothing is more real to us as Hiphoppas than the real thoughts, feelings, and urges within our own selves and our entire community. This is why Rhymes Equal Actual Life In The Youth. Breakin, Dejayin', Graf Art, Emceein, Beatboxin, Street Language, Street Fashion, Street Knowledge, and Street Entrepreneurialism allows us to unleash the inner genius that has become illegal in our society. The real crime against humanity is so entrenched in the American way of life, that by our mere Self-expression we rebel against criminal acts against our sanity, Self-worth, and overall well-being.

If reality is in the eyes of the beholder, then our perception must be awfully different than the stereotypical successful white male in America's patriarchal structure. How come every president we've ever had has been a white male? As a generation we have come to the conclusion that it is not realistic for us to believe we can succeed according to that analytical left brained, bean counting, pencil pushing way of life common to so many cubicle office personnel and government officials. It is, however, very realistic for us to believe in Truth, love, and passion for our own gifts and talents, and balancing our left and right brain to form an overall philosophy for our unique valuable lives. Not to mention, living out that philosophy happily.

Rather than making money for the sake of buying more consumable products, we place more value on increasing the overall progress of human potential. It is simply a Spiritual law of success for us to not try and fit in with nerds, geeks, squares, and uptight people. Is it our fault that these people are predominantly white male presidents and government officials? What the fuck are we supposed to do, deny the fact that in order to hold a political office, we have to paint our faces, put on clown suits and smile for "massa?!"Fuck that shit, we'd rather work at Lowes for $10.60 an hour while working on our dreams, than to kiss ass and eat

with our oppressors in the success circus of mainstream American leaders. We would rather remain the invisible man that we have been for the last 400 years, than become visible to men with corrupt standards. Who is they? Well, let's just say they know who they are…and you know who they are too! If we have been invisible for the last 18 and 24 years, what is 60 – 80 more years?? We've seen our grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, cousins make attempts to succeed in the calculated numerical reality of society, only to sell their souls and ignore the Divine Purpose and genius of their own lives and the lives of their offspring. Then when we say we're not going to college, that we wanna be a rapper, poet, or deejay we're not being "realistic" enough??!?! They tell us we need a back up plan!?!? Why would we need a backup plan for something we are internally? You only need a backup plan when you fear the consequences of failure being and doing something YOU ARE NOT!!! In Hiphop's reality, there is no such thing as failure, only effort. In Hiphop, energy nor matter is created or destroyed, only transferred. Love, heart, will, and determination rise out of us until our flesh dissolves……period.

Even when we express ourselves, there is no political representation of ourselves upholding the laws of this land. We don't see no Hiphoppas running for president!? In our reality when we saw Bush and Kerry running for president in November 2004, we saw one man who looks like Lucifer and another man who looks like Lucifer. Did we miss something? Where was the choice of candidates? We saw nothing to choose from! It's kind of like when Neo's eyes were blinded at the end of the Matrix. He could only sense heat. When we watch T.V., we see blue, red, green, yellow particle waves, and flames surrounding the faces of Bush and Kerry. They're faces resemble fire, heat, horns….what can we say!!!? It's the muthafuckin Truth!! None of them looked like us and all our Hiphop brothers and sisters around the world full of Spirits of love, peace, and prosperity. Is it our fault that we use Spiritual lenses to ascertain the qualities of government officials? Is it our fault we want leaders with RIGHT knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. So, you tell us what is "real" and what is "fake." There is only so much pain Hiphoppas can take! We fight to preserve our inner reality every time an NBA player cries and whines like a million dollar race horse who hasn't been fed, every time a liquor billboard is flashed in our face, every time a B.E.T. or M.T.V. video comes on, every time a young black boy or girl is murdered in acts of senseless violence, every time a bill collector calls, every time we lose a job, every time we fail a college test, every time another black or Latino male is locked up! In America, we are playing a tug of war with reality. On one end are attuned Hiphoppas and on the other end are socially trained Neanderthals…and that pesky punk ass detective sayin, 'Humans….The smell…uhhhh….spit!!!!". Sound a little like the Matrix? Well……...it is!!!

"Everything's a blessing…Sometimes when you lose, you really win."

- AZ

In the "Real World" it's just like the M.T.V. "Real World", we're all in this together. Think of America as the house in Real World, San Francisco, Las Vegas, or New York. On that T.V. show, they group a bunch of people together with absolutely nothing in common and the conflicts, dramas, and theatrical outbursts become entertainment. Just like the black dude on Real World, who gets kicked out of the house first, we Hiphoppas have to wake up everyday and make something of ourselves regardless of what interrupts our sense of reality. Just like that black dude on Real World who has to put up with Becky's beer cans, Stacy's orgies, and Christie's dirty dishes, we Hiphoppas have to put up with America's false façade, if we are to play the show for all it's worth to us. America is like that house on the Real World T.V. show.

America is truly a melting pot, and the only thing we all agree about is that we are ALL here, some of us came on boats, some crossed the border, some of us descended from slaves, some of us murdered and killed our way in, some of us smuggled drugs in, some of us used religion to gain advantage, some of us used finance, money, and power. We Americans are some wild people! The fact that we have to deal with all this contention drama and struggle with the ultimate reality should not surprise any of us. Such is life, suffering, pain, and struggle. Positive and negative, love and hate, there'll always be Hiphoppas unjustly labeled as enemies of the state…just like the black dudes on all of MTV's Real World seasons.

If we're all going to be on earth with one another, we might as well find ways to get along. This is why we have drafted the Hiphop Declaration of Peace. We want peace and prosperity! We want to be able to live our lives to the fullest without being mentally, verbally, physically, and psychologically attacked. We want to preserve our culture and our way of life. Why do so many wealthy, elitist, mainstream American thinkers not want that? Are they afraid? Is there something in their soul that quivers every time an 808 kick drops with a snare clap poppin' on a rap song? Do such thinkers even acknowledge the fact that they have a soul? Are such people only driven by facts, figures, numbers, statistics, and calculations? Our dear friend Stephen Covey writes, "It is first better to understand, then seek to be understood." We Hiphoppas have taken the time to understand America's mainstream. Has American society taken the time to understand undaground Hiphop thought? How can we co-exist if one party is not even willing to recognize our brilliance, intelligence, and contribution to society. American elitist's forfeit their respect when they deny to even view us a powerful movement and culture. Even if they do, will they begin adjusting America's façade for the better welfare of the people and not just a select few millionaires?

The reality of a Hiphop driven life is that we resist 21st Century American media's attack on Self-mastery, community, and

frugality. Self-mastery is about the development of valuable, saleable skills. Community is about communion and serving others. Frugality is about enjoying and being grateful for the abundance in our lives, material and non-material. By developing all of these qualities successfully, we have managed to develop our own Kulture. In Hiphop Kulture, we measure our level of greatness and respect by the level of community service we provide for people. By community service, we mean artistic, intellectual, social, and political contribution. There may be no "I" in team. For us, there is an "I" in Hiphop! The "I" in Hiphop stands for Inner and I ntegrated. Therefore, we use the term "I" freely in our language knowing that we are representing all other "I's/eyes" who see what we see. There is only ONE "I" in the word Hiphop. We do not say "I" to the exclusion of all others in our community, but for the "IN" -clusion of all others in our community. When we say "I" we represent our community, as a way to speak up for and defend our community, to speak on behalf or our community. We are so integrated with the will of the people that it is not rare for us to use the word "I" and mean us and we at the same time. In popular American culture, "I" has a tendency to mean ME, MYSELF, and I and ONLY ME!!! Our whole society is competitive and Selfishly driven by money. Our challenge is to exist in this society and find a way to be our selves, still acquire money to live prosperously, and still serve the greater good.

Service is defined as an act of assistance to benefit another or others; a favor. We do each other a favor and ourselves a favor when we serve each other. Our greatness and wealth as Hiphoppas is defined by how well we serve others. Sometimes the reality is that it is hard to serve others when we cannot afford food, clothing, and shelter for ourselves. It's hard to serve the public, when we cannot serve our own children and families. Prosperity must be included in our Hiphop revolutionary carry-out package. Since money has the highest value in our society, we have to figure out how to obtain an abundance of money and still serve the greater good. We are not at odds with making money. As a matter of fact, if we Attuned Hiphoppas were more focused and organized, we would be far more wealthy and financially endowed than the average elitist criminal. Our philanthropy is needed.

For one, we serve the greater good, our communities, and the world faithfully through 6,000 years of history's greatest influences: art and music; and two, we serve without violating other people's lives using mind control, pressure tactics, and oppressive usury….or at least we try not to. I think many of our Hiphop C.E.O.'s play America's traditional corporate game a little too well!! At least some of them acknowledge the movement. Not all mainstream traditional corporate C.E.O.'s are so ruthless of course….just most of them. This will soon change as Hiphop's influence in America shifts what it means to be a C.E.O. We already have P.Diddy dancing in videos, running marathons for charity, and shaving his head in a mohawk to represent our Native American brothers and sisters. We have Russell Simmons balling himself up into a rubber band with his Yoga practice! They may not be the ultimate pinnacle of Hiphop's potential in the C.E.O world but they give the International Hiphop Community a preview of what Hiphop C.E.O.'s will soon be made of. No more stuffy suits and boring corporate culture. Chief Executive Officers rising up in the Hiphop community will soon be rapping, writing, dancing, drawing, and yes….beatboxin'! All of Hiphop's core elements will be represented to the fullest by C.E.O.'s, making A LOT of money, and serving the greater good. Just watch.

Can we dream of our Hiphop lifestyle and then systematically convert those dreams into reality. How many of us as Hiphoppas view financial, emotional, mental, relationships, and Spiritual success as one in the same. Do any of us feel we must sacrifice one for the other? Does making money in a Hiphop lifestyle mean we have to sell sex, violence, and drugs? Can't we be wealthy by finding the value within ourselves, making that value real in the lives of others, and repeating that process on a massive scale? Is wealth not the distribution and exchange of rare resources….to as many people as possible?

To use the words of brother Mase from his dollar sign days: "The Reality of it All – Everybody Can't Ball" Sorry, everybody is not disciplined enough to master every step, be patient, and cultivate Self-mastery. The reality is that all of you won't make it. Our challenge to you is to not be like everybody, be your Self. YOU can ball, but everybody cannot. It is a Universal law that cream rises to the top, planetary orbits don't stop, and Sunbursts will continue to pop. Only one sperm out of billions makes it to the egg. That one sperm was YOU. Align yourself with these laws of the Universe. Align yourself with the unique aspects in our Universe that stand out, Suns, Stars, Moons, Far off galaxies etc. The masses tend to not want to make forward progress, so they lurk around in the obscure shadows of darkness and mediocrity, sort of….blending in. O.K. Your next assumption is that someone in our society stands out and is outstanding. Do those who make progress do the same things daily that the masses do? Of course not. Do what the leaders do. Follow the leader. Model yourself after those who have succeeded, not those who want to succeed. Don't do what everyone else does. Be original. Zig when everyone else zags. Crouch when everyone else leaps. Run when everyone else walks. Outkast hold's the title for this element of our Kulture: "The whole world love's it when ya don't get down!"

The next time someone discourages our Self-expression, let us look toward the word's of Nelson Mandela to inspire our commitment to Hiphop and our way of life. The next time someone criticizes us for proclaiming, "**I Am Hiphop**." Let us recite the words of a world hero, Nelson Mandela:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our Light, not our darkness that frightens us.
We ask ourselves, who am I
to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are we not to be?
You are a child of God.
Your playing small doesn't serve the world.
There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us
It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone.
And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.
As we are liberated from our own fears, our presence automatically liberates others.

Source: A Return to Love by Marianne Williamson
(as quoted by Nelson Mandela in his inaugural speech, 1994)

When we view the webpage of another world hero, Tony Robbins, at www.tonyrobbins.com, we see that he has challenged us with some questions for us to answer about our human potential. First of all, he reminds of us of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy." Secondly, he tells us: "Courage is an opportunity presented to us all, to shape a vision into reality." Next he asks, "Will you stand back in the shadows….or step forward and become a leader?…YOU clearly have the choice" and lastly, "It is in our moments of decision that our Destiny is shaped." These thoughts are key components to the essence of living a Hiphop Driven life. Courage is what kept rap from becoming a fad. These principles are why Hiphop is changing the landscape of urban cities all over the world. Having the courage to be YOU, taking a stand, making decisions, being leaders is how we take back our communities, our power as geniuses, live our Divine Purpose, and give the International Hiphop movement the progress it needs to light the world on fire with beats, rhymes, and life!

"What's talked about is a dream, what's envisioned is exciting, what's planned becomes possible, what's scheduled is real."

***-Anthony Robb**ins*

Brothas and sistas of Hiphop, it is time to put our actions where our mouths are. Join the Hiphop movement! Join the human potential movement! Join this 21st Century, new millennium shift in collective consciousness. Be proactive! Take control of your own life! Master your unique gifts, talents, and skills! Develop your Divine Purpose! Be a genius! Just BE FREE right now inside your SELF!!! Don't let the president or so called figures write your history for you. Don't let them write you down in the history books as the minstrel clowns of the 21st century. There is nothing anyone in America (racist oppressor or not) can do to stop you from RISING UP! No president can stop you from being Self-disciplined. Visualize the realism of life and actuality! Fuck who's the baddest a person's status depends on R.E.A.L.I.T.Y. There is nothing any creditor, professor, racist, uncle tom, elitists, political puppet, shadow government, or conspirator can do to stop the force of Hiphop. There is nothing any of the pimps, drug dealers, con artists, gangstas, murderers, or warlords can do to stop Hiphop's all encompassing omnipresent victory over the streets! There is nothing any C.E.O, warden, guard, or officer can do to lock you up behind bars. YOU are more than flesh. YOU are equally an invincible SPIRIT. We will consume the lost souls with our art, music, and lifestyle. We are Hiphop and we are indestructible.

The seconds, minutes, and hours that we use to backup our definite major Purpose in life with skills, intellect, conviction, and congruency are the times when peace conquers war and prosperity conquers poverty. The times we fail to think, speak, and act are the times we are defeated. Right now, the score is about even. However, we are about to throw some knockout blows within this decade. We are about to grab the balls of Satan, and bring the muthafucka to his knees. We have come so far. We are now entering the final stretch of our mission to save the destruction of human civilization by forces of greed, imperialism, elitism, and evil! Since the turn of the millennium, consciousness has been at an ever present rise in urban communities of America. There has been a surge of social conscious mainstream rap artists. People are thirsting, lusting, and craving REAL HIPHOP. Hiphop is being played in poverty stricken streets ALL OVER THE WORLD, in ALL of the seven continents. Will you follow your heart….and live…or will you die inside your stiff uptight body a thousand times over?….YOU clearly have the choice.

As Hiphoppas, we must overstand the way of the warrior. It's time for us all to make the transition from thug life to warrior life. Warriors uphold honor, righteousness, and the greater good. Bless their hearts, but thugs have no direction. As warriors, we have direction. We have a Divine Purpose. We are Divine geniuses and we will preserve our way of life. Don't stop at thuggin'. If you're a thug, take your thuggin' to the next level and embark on the path of the warrior. Our sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters will be proud of us for standing up for what we believe in. They will be ashamed if all we were was

ignorant thugs with no aims, goals, or Purpose. We must liberate ourselves from the bondage of inner city traps like liquor stores, corners, black on black violence, and latino on latino violence. At these locations, there is no choice but to thug it out. When one rises beyond the enslavement of such boxed in traps, what is the Purpose of thuggin'? The reality is that thuggin' leads to death or prison. The way of the warrior leads to valor and victory. Our oppressors would prefer that we be mindless thugs and point our guns at each other. Our oppressors are afraid that we are becoming mindful, aware, conscious warriors who may unify and point our guns in the direction of the cause of our pain and despair. Thugs just do whatever everyday. Warriors wake up, freshen up, wear authentic Hiphop fashions, and treat each action and person as if it that very moment was the last precious moment. Thugs try and fit in. Warriors lead, define, and meet direct objectives with preciseness. Such is the way of the warrior.

Keepin' it real? Are you? Reality is individual perception. What do you perceive as the reality of your life? Please do not accept the common rules of success by others. Even though we have given you a path to follow, do not make our path your only gateway through the doors of achievement. The reality is that most people cannot fully apply 100% of the material they read. We would hope that you remember as much as possible of our principles. The reality is that you probably won't. Use what you can use to improve yourself. If you even change one bad habit, one negative emotion, one bad day, then our words are real to you.

Yes, we do live in a very cold world. We cannot leave out realism. Your body may be worn down by the nature of your environment, stresses, hardships, sickness, and pain. May this information that you put into yourself help relieve that. Your Spirit is just as real as your physical body. Never forget that.

You need no assurance from the validity of others. You will always have something to learn about the real world. Even as we write this, our text becomes outdated history. In the real world, we never know what will happen next. We try to predict as much as we can, prepare as much as we can, and live the best we can. The reality is that we really only have limited control of our lives here on Earth. Uncertainty, discomfort, and inconsistency are an important element of the world. You can succeed the way you are right now. While Self-improvement is about progress, change, and reaching higher levels of being, doing, and having; there is no magic cure all to make you fulfilled and complete. There are as many problems in the world as there are people to create them.

There is a difference between a person who falls victim to Self-doubt, procrastination, laziness, and hopelessness; and a person who can forecast potential problems and anticipate difficulties realistically. Being positive is the best attitude to have overall. Positivity must also be balanced with honest analysis of facts that could present serious setbacks. There are always limitations in the physical world. It's not that we have to give in to our roadblocks. We just have to take accurate measure of our obstacles and break through the challenges that would normally stop us. Being realistic does not mean the same thing as being negative. Even if negative thoughts do creep in from time to time, our negativity doesn't have as much power as our imagination thinks it has.

In mainstream American culture, people are manipulated into believing that success has a deadline. We all hustle for fast money. Whatever happened to frugality, and enjoying what we have? Why not just live under our means for a little while? What a concept? Do we have to go from no clothes to the finest fabrics in two weeks, and risk our lives in the process? We are not given a chance as human beings to cultivate ourselves while embracing our endurance skills. We are all programmed to judge success and winning in relation to how fast we can produce visible cash money. If we cultivate our selves; it is more meaningful. The REAL time to judge whether a person lived a happy, fulfilled, successful life is at an individual's moment of death, or moment of Truth. Realistically speaking, many people will not care to help you with your Divine Purpose. However, rejection, failure, and defeat are all experiences that make you stronger. Great people know how to suffer and endure the sufferable. People who are not afraid of anything, always accomplish GREAT things.

"To conquer without risk, is to triumph without glory."

--Anonymous

Our ultimate vision is a stress free life. Even with this, we know that there must be pain and pleasure. We will all get as close to freedom and liberation as possible, but our lives will never be totally stress free. While we are optimistic, hopeful, and positive that we all will victoriously attain peace and prosperity, we are saddened by what our eyes physically see throughout the world. We see our selves in poverty and misery. The challenge is that we must look beyond what's real to our senses, and look toward the Truth of what is real to our Spirit. We know people have lost hope. We sometimes reminisce of the hopelessness Tupac was feeling when he asked, "Will there ever be peace? We make room for us all to get our frustrations out. Sometimes it seems nothing will ever change. Part of visualizing the realism of life and actuality is understanding how to cope with what seems to be insurmountable odds. All we can do is have faith. Tupac did want peace. We all do as human beings. We just haven't found a way to agree on how or when it will happen. Let's take a look at one of Tupac's rhymes about the reality of our struggle for demanding peace in America:

Now of course I want peace on the streets
But realistically painting perfect pictures ain't never work

My misery was so deep
*couldn't sleep thro*ugh all my pressures
In my quest for cash I learned fast
Using violent measures
Memories of adolescent years
Their was unity but after puberty we brought war
To our community so many bodies dropping
Its gotta stop I want to help
But still I'm stepping keeping my weapon
Must protect myself
the promise of a better tomorrow ain't never reach me
Plus my teachers were to petrified in class to teach me
Sipping thunderbird and grape kool-aid
Calling Earl since my stomach was empty
It seduced me to fuck the world
Watch my 'lil homies lose there childhood to guns
Nobody cries no more Cause we all die for fun
So why you ask me if I want peace if you cant grant it
niggas fighting across the whole planet
So there can never be peace

[Chorus]
Will there ever be peace?
Or all we all just headed for doom,
Still consumed by the beefs,
And I know there'll never be peace,
That's why I keep my pistol when I walk the streets
Cause there can never be peace

[Tupac Talking]
Shit, fuck peace
On the strength till my niggas get a piece
We cant have peace
How the fuck we gonna live happy if we ain't got nuthin?
You mothafuckas is smiling, but I'm mean mugging
Why? Cause I gotta be thuggin'
I've seen drugs done turned this mothafuckin' hood out
All us niggas acting up
Wild ass motherfuckin adolescents
These niggas ain't even got no childhoods no more
How the fuck can you have a childhood and you have a funeral every motherfuckin weekend
And young motherfuckers talking about peace?
Nicca, it ain't no mothafuckin' peace
You ain't seen the news motherfucker?
You ain't heard? Little babies getting smoked
Mothafuckas killing their whole family
'Lil kids getting thrown off buildings
Motherfuckers gettin abused
Peace? Niggas you out your motherfucking mind?
Fuck peace! We can't never have peace…
Till you motherfuckers clean up this mess you made
'Till u fuckin clean up the dirt u dropped
'Till we get a piece, fuck peace…westside

Is this how we all feel now? Is this our final conclusion, or can we realistically build on and carry on Tupac's original dream. In his first few lines he said, "Of course I want peace." Even though he had anger and had no idea how it would be possible, that's enough for us to know what his deep desire was. He wanted us all to be able to live free. We have a chance now to do that. We have a chance to do it for all of our fallen heroes who died living in Hiphop Kulture. We cannot fail to carry out the mission for Tupac and all our other heroes.

"Divine guidance comes when the horizon is blackest."
*--Gand*hi

We must all remember that peace and prosperity is not about what we are willing to do to gain it, it's about what we're willing to give up in exchange for it. We all want the finer things in life, and many of us will go to extremes to have the so-called best in life and the world. Have we thought that instead of doing more, maybe there are things we should not do? It's all about how we drive on our road to riches. Are we living a Hiphop driven life on our journey? Or are we living a sick, death ridden life? Sacrifice is important. We must not forget that in order to get something in the Universe, something must be given up: time, effort, bad habits, negative thinking, laziness, over indulgence in sex, overeating. Have we ever stopped to think that maybe one of the seven deadly sins is stopping us from obtaining our own peace and prosperity. Maybe instead of trying to change the world to get wealth, we must change ourselves to get wealth. Have you run into people expressing these seven deadly sins? Do you express any of these realistic hell on earth syndromes below? Eliminate them and you may be surprised about how peaceful and prosperous life is. If no other methods seem to realistically working in your life, you can at least try to eliminate these states of mind from your existence:

- **Pride/Vanity** a desire to be important or attractive to others or excessive love of Self (holding Self out of proper position toward God or fellows; Dante's definition was "love of Self perverted to hatred and contempt for one's neighbor")
- **Envy/Jealously** resentment of others for their possessions (Dante: "Love of one's own good perverted to a desire to deprive other men of theirs")
- **Wrath/Anger** inappropriate (unrighteous) feelings of hatred, revenge or even denial, as well as punitive desires outside of justice (Dante's description was "love of justice perverted to revenge and spite")
- **Sloth** (also accidie, acedia) — laziness; idleness and wastefulness of time allotted laziness is condemned because: others have to work harder; it is disadvantageous for oneself, because useful work does not get done an equilibrium: one does not produce much, but one does not need much either (in Dante's theology, sloth is the "failure to love God with all one's heart, all one's mind, and all one's soul" - specific examples including laziness, cowardice, lack of imagination, complacency, and irresponsibility)
- **Avarice/Covetousness/Greed** a desire to possess more than one has need/use for (or, according to Dante, "excessive love of money/power")
- **Gluttony** wasting of food, either through overindulgence in food, drink or intoxicants, misplaced desire for food for its sensuality, or withholding food from the needy ("excessive love of pleasure" was Dante's rendering)
- **Lust** unlawful sexual desire, such as desiring sex with a person one is not married to.; fornication (Dante's criterion was "excessive love of others," thereby detracting from the love due God). It should be noted that in some lists of the Seven Deadly Sins, lust is replaced with *luxuria* or luxury.

Dreaming is the beginning. Are you willing to work to make your dream a reality? You may want to become a ghetto superstar, a model, a singer, a pro athlete, or a rapper overnight. However, there will be work you must do along the way that will be less than pleasant. Hell, it could be washing cars, shining shoes, cleaning toilets, mixing paint, delivering boxes. The list goes on and on. These nightmares of paid employment are called "Jobs" in our society. Just because you have a Divine Purpose and you do not believe in the system that enslaves us all, does not mean you cannot use a regular J-O-B as a stepping stone. Of course, it is wise to find jobs that have some meaning or Purpose that is slightly in alignment with your vision, Purpose, and goals. Many of us are caught so far from opportunity, we end up having to create our own jobs. Some of us hustle. Some of us sell drugs. Some of us take to pimpin'. Some become thieves and straight up rob folks. Whether legit or illegitimate; either way, it all takes intelligent hard work. Effort must be exerted to get what you want. Maybe one of the keys, is to exert our effort toward labor that is not sent to trap us and send us upstate and locked away like animals.

> ***"The Purpose of labor is to learn. When you know it, the labor is over. The apple blossom exists to create fruit. When that comes, the petals fall."***
>
> ***-Kabir, a*** prophet.

"A dream is a fragile thing –
yet it can be the most powerful thing in the world."

--Anonymous

Our major dream in life and our Divine Purpose evolves and becomes REAL through raw, real action, when sneakers hit the pavement. In our life's work there are three P's….and no they are not Poetry, Power, and Pistols; but don't get it twisted, we don't exclude those P's either! The three P's we recommend that you remember for this particular point are:

Purpose, **P**erseverance, and **P**atience.

Purpose: Know why, what for, the reason, the motivation behind your work. You ain't doin this shit for nothing. Remind yourself of the Purposeful benefit of your work.

Perseverance: Know that this too shall pass. Know that you will NEVER give up. Know that no matter what you will endure the darkness until you see light.

Patience: The only thing separating you from famous, wealthy, cultured people living their dreams is time and space. They are merely at different places during different times than you. To gain this access, you must accumulate skill and then money. Make room for the time and distance to obtain it. Once you decide to focus on NOW, the present moment, everything seems to glide along more smoothly.

Some people choose to live in delusion and are blinded to reality. Please, never hustle blind! When the human will is misguided, even success brings nothing but sorrow. Think about it. Even though rappers make it on T.V. and Radio, without Divine Purpose their lives become empty and meaningless. Without understanding why they do what they do, the Purpose behind it, they only have motivation for more luxuries, more bitches, more cars, more liquor, and more drugs. Of course, we all know that those habits end up bringing misery and sorrow. A great being once said, "Human beings practice motivation blindly: they motivate themselves into action and often land at a place where they don't even belong." It is easy to be successful, it's hard to be successful at the right achievements for the right reasons. There is always a will stronger and wiser than your will. That is the Divine will of ALL.

"Great Spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds." -Albert Einstein

We have already explained that the Most High Creator, created the Universe to be in Love, Peace, and Unity. Knowing this, we must overstand the fact that we are IN the Universe, but our physical bodies must live ON Earth. In the Universe, Everything is Everything; energy is neither created nor destroyed. On Earth, considering the fact that gravity is holding us on the face of the planet, there are limitations. Our physical bodies are finite on Earth, while our Spiritual bodies are infinite in the Universe. We do not have to use our bodies to express the infinite. Our bodies will eventually die. We can use our Spirits to express the infinite love, peace, and unity. Because our bodies will not always be with us, we feel pain, pleasure, and emotions. It is our responsibility to defend our bodies and protect our bodies. We should also protect our brain, our hearts, and all our other body parts. There is a difference between Universal Laws and Natural Laws.

Universal law is about survival of the Spiritual minded. Natural law is about survival of the fittest. Universal Law respects obedience to morality, consciousness, and soul. Natural Law respects obedience to survival, homeostasis, health, and physical endurance. Love, Peace, and Unity is a Universal constant. Hate, War, and Violence is a natural constant. Life on Earth is sometimes difficult to comprehend, but human nature closely resembles a path of creation and destruction. Everything on the physical Earth was created and will also be destroyed, it's just a matter of when and how. We know our Earthly potential and limitations, so we are very defensive about preserving our existence on Earth. However, we don't know what our Universal potentials are, and from what we intuit, there is no limit. Therefore, we can conclude that if we have faith in consciousness expanding into eternity, there is no death of our animating force, or our Spirit. With this in mind, the game on the natural earthly level is a game to be played to the best of our ability. Perhaps, if we play it well, there will be a higher level to our existence, like Heaven, euphoria, or perpetual bliss. In any case, we know that if we are going to strive for fulfillment, meaning, and Purpose; we must preserve ourselves on Earth.

We want to believe in love and remember the goodness inspired in all of us by our creator. However, the natural world constantly reminds us that our animating force (Spirit) will be tested. Our Earthly existence is a test to see how much our Spirit can do within our physical limitations. It is those who are trapped in the physical world, the material world, the tangible world who have no respect for human life and human preservation.

Throughout the history of time, the evil Spirited man has attempted to quench his lust for control, power, and domination. Humans have seen division of classes, unequal distribution of resources, and war. Is it wrong that the Earth's abundant resources be distributed evenly among all for the greater good? Is it wrong that some human beings are forced to suffer, while others have more and never share what they have? It is this inequality that has created human destruction and despair. If no one felt deprived, no one would steal. If no one felt victimized, no one would react with ravenous revenge in the form of terrorist acts. If no one felt violated by racism, imperialism, and colonialism; no one would have an oppressor to topple.

As citizens of the world, we must begin to think critically about our placement in world history and world current events. As Hiphoppas in the United States, we have our concerns about the destructive forces that reflect badly upon us as American citizens. Hiphoppas in the rest of the world, please understand that we do not all agree with the actions of the leadership in our

country. We would like to see United States foreign policy reflect the people of the United States, not the elitists, financiers, and wealthy families who have hijacked our government. We do not seek war, we seek peace. We know that if we had financial influence in the United States, we'd be able to participate. We supposedly live in a democracy, but as Hiphoppas, we view ourselves as being in an oligarchy. In fact, we feel that we have had no choice in the election of our country's leadership. Even though we are granted the right to vote and speak freely, we are denied the right to think freely. We are overwhelmed with strategic traps placed in impoverished communities such as diseases, drugs, illegal arms, and mind control tactics. We want the opportunity to be world citizens. Currently we view ourselves as American captives.

The made up reality in the American media is different than our reality. All we want to do is to have victory over the streets! Thieves, robbers, murderers, rapists all exist. Evil will rob us of our faith and belief in the inherent goodness in the majority of mankind, turning us all cold inside. The ruthless among us grovel before the wealthy and powerful and act viciously toward the poor and weak. What a cowardly way to live life! Understanding the laws of nature, we know that the strong will prey on the weak..

As attuned conscious Hiphoppas living a Hiphop driven life, we must be wise and discern where the ruthless are and deal with them appropriately rather than blindly being kind our giving our peace and compassion to everyone. We must safeguard our Earthly interests in significant and insignificant matters. We must not overcompensate by becoming the stereotypical thug which has been commonly shown in rap videos and Hollywood movies. We must not become ruthless like the evildoers. All we must do is be realistic and use wisdom, prejudice, and discernment to observe who's trying to harm us and who's trying to control our minds. Once we have decided who's trying to eliminate us, we can then take steps to eliminate them. It's an eye for an eye in this Earthly world. We would like everyone we meet to respect us, love us, and praise us. In reality, no matter how holy or noble our Divine Purpose or point of view is, we will never get everyone to agree.

It is time again for a unity of violence and non-violence. The day that Martin Luther King Jr. shook hand's with Malcolm X had racists shaking in their boots, pissing in their pants, and shitting in their drawers. The day all inner city inhabitants unify and pursue Self-mastery, will be the day elitist cowards go running back to the mountains and the caves. When we take the violent among us and unify them with the non-violent among us, there should be a happy medium between attack and retreat. Maybe non-violence is the answer. Maybe violence is the answer. One way or another, people who have oppressed creativity, Divine Purpose, Divine genius, and love life liberty, and the pursuit of happiness must rise up! The picture is now clearer than ever about who's doing what and why; and who's destroying human progress. To change reality for the better, it takes every single individual who loves Hiphop, is passionate about Hiphop, stands for Hiphop, and lives Hiphop; to unify with one aim in mind: **Self-Mas**tery. When we all master ourselves, we will be too busy to harm our neighbors. Until then, we will have to defend ourselves, even from our own people who have been programmed and brainwashed to destroy lives only to later Self-destruct.

Hiphop began in the South Bronx within the minds and hearts of the poor and forgotten in American society. The ideals of peace, love, unity, and havin fun helped keep Hiphop alive. When Rappers Delight hit the mainstream, Americans ruthless cunning, made victims of us all. Culture vultures were victorious. Many of our own beloved Hiphoppas adopted the methods of their vulture captors, masters, and oppressors. Hiphoppas have accepted Americans filth and sickness. Hiphoppas have accepted the violence, murder, vulgarity, and animalistic behavior of cold-blooded racist businessmen who enslaved our ancestors. Nowadays, leaders of corporate entities such as Clear Channel, Viacom, record executives, CEO's, and elitists are happy to consume the minds of the desperate so-called poor, brown, yellow, red, white youth in America's gutters. Evil forces want Hiphoppas to use their own wretchedness to outdo and destroy each other.

As Nightjohn, we are earnest men with warrior spirits, performing our God given duty to rebel against mental slavery and live out our Divine Purpose. We shall practice and preserve our human rights as Divine geniuses. Having us in the rap game is like having a breath of fresh air, blowing into a polluted, foul-smelling, stank ass room. People true to Hiphop will recognize our work and embrace us. We will shine like the North Star within ourselves to outthink, outdo, and outperform ALL the cunning and ruthless.

After a decade of foul air in the Hiphop community, driven purely by greed and Selfish monetary gain, the International Hiphop Community is ready for a breath of fresh air; liberation through REAL progressive poetry, quality music, the warrior Spirit, intelligence, valor, and Purposeful work. If, in an attempt to defend our selves from: our oppressors, haters, crabs in a bucket, sharks, media pirates, industry vultures, our own brainwashed people, elitist secret societies of financiers, America's shadow government, and world military regimes; and we are labeled unfavorably as cunning and ruthless for peaceful self-defense, so be it…

"The killer instinct is not solely reserved for the vicious and cunning;
It can benefit the virtuous and righteous as well."

-Chin-Ning Chu

Conclusion
One Love

"The best soldier does not attack.
The superior fighter succeeds without violence.
The greatest conqueror wins without a struggle.
The most successful manager leads without dictating.
This is called intelligent nonaggressiveness.
This is called mastery of men."

- Lao-Tzu

All we need is one book. Hopefully we have guided you to see the North Star. May this shining Light forever guide your heart as you let the Light of Hiphop enter your heart, and use your heart to share it. We hope this book has truly allowed you to awaken your own form of genius and discover your Divine Purpose in life, or at least give you a start to doing so. Purpose is something we give to one another by pursuing our dreams and not the status quo. To pursue a dream, a person must realize his or her own essence through a rebirth of thought. It is the rebirth of thought that continues the cycle of lives driven by the collective consciousness of Hiphop.

By keeping this book with you as a manual to unleashing your Divine Purpose and living a life of courage, you will continually have access to the success keys of obtaining true fulfillment. Remember that some one elses standards of perfection really enslave you to a mirage of ideals. Striving to perfect your own standards means you are truly liberated. As you go on your quest through life, make sure to enjoy every hour, minute, and second of your journey. Tomorrow is never promised. Use your newfound intelligence to touch lives close to you and lives far from you. Touch lives directly and indirectly. Go out and help others, serve others, and make friends. It all comes down to the simple Truth that we're all on planet Earth with other human beings. The chances are that much of our happiness, peace of mind, and fulfillment will come from harmonious relationships with other people we come in contact with.

Often it is our own inability to master ourselves that causes us to antagonize or violate our neighbors. Let us always remember to examine ourselves before casting a stone at another individual. Only our Creator has the power to judge us for our deeds, and even then our Creator is the most compassionate, most beneficent, and most merciful. Hopefully, this book will continue in a relationship with you throughout your successes and challenges. We hope this book is a friend for you on bright sunny days as well as dark rainy days.

You really can have it all in life. More specifically, you really can have all you truly desire and think of as important. Your goal should be to enhance and increase the activities, behaviors, and feelings that are important to you, and reduce and decrease the ones that mean nothing to you. Purpose is about giving value to the TOP experiences you want to feel on a regular basis in life. Most of all, Purpose is about identifying with greatness and excellence by serving humanity. We all have a Purpose for creating and reproducing life on planet Earth. We all also have an obligation and duty to make that life on Earth as pleasant as possible with ourselves and those around us. As a result, our lives will perpetually be happy and driven by Hiphop.

A lesson...

(8/29/04 11:06 a.m.)

Is a cripple lesson fallin back
Stumble stepping balance your grasp
My mind's aggression stares down your back
Tryin to steal my inventive conception
Just ask and I will feel no misdirection
Talk, stare, walk, care, dirty chalk
Scratchin marks on cement pictures blastin
From yards of art, Hiphop in my heart
No spots on the chart, so they got me thinking
Is it possible ta get the ignorant believing
Belief system a correct form of pimpin'
People missin, drug addiction, death gleamin
Squirts of semen, babies poppin' out of puss
Niccas floppin over dirty mommas tush
Ignorant brothas and our sistas really try
No excuses, they just want dick in they eye
Spoiled mind caught in a trap with no escape
No map predestined fate, twenty five laps
Doesn't even equal it's pain
Nothing gained
A.K. ~ (Divine)

Disciples

We dot every eye and cross every tee
Plot every rhyme and watch every emcee
Got very fine shine, the cost wasn't free
Not too many rappers know how to be
Rap ain't cool rap if it ain't against slavery
No will power, record deal, cowards lookin cheap
we don't even watch T-V, hard as can be
No sweets, we shit ruffage and piss green tea
Mistakes, we drop and give ourselves twenty
Minds brilliant like fluorescent energy
Time tests the best, ten steps to manifest
Followed the leader, till we ran out of breath
Now we lead, Self-control, valor, dignity
Simplicity, wisdom, supreme, intensity
We money magnets, fightin taxes, immensely
There's a way to live, and a way to die

Masses forgot both, straight up scared to rise
They got no discipline, livin inferior lives
How can ya vote when ya still just getting by
we focus on Self help for both u and I
God helps u as u help your Self stay fly
Hiphop disciples, the wisest guys
Bayo

Rainy Day

(8/29/04 11:50 a.m.)

Water drops meticulously
On spots where people walk
Time never stops clever mind
Next time an umbrella will stop the sky
I peer through my eyes...demons
Everywhere I wasn't believing
Until funny feelin in the air
My lungs breathin I feel free
Is it the word that helps me see?
Trapped souls in a mental penitentiary
How can I plan eyes starin hard
Like a cat scan when the room is dark
Shadows from the lights see
Nothing more wicked then lightning
Like when two God's are fighting
But my vocals unlease a chain
Pictures, emotions like sensors
I found words identical to rain
Another storm occurred inner visions ain't the same
A new perspective on a day of rain

A.K. (Divine)

Nightjohn

Our mothers was sisters, caucasian pedigree
call us cousins, brothers sound better to me

Our mommas, chose to breed brown husbandry
A.K's dad, Kale from Gary, Indiana, was locked in the bing
Bayo's dad, Sam from Sakete, Benin, wall-street robbed him clean
Our fathers fell in the traps set to destroy u and me
Oppressed creativity, we young men forced to dream
No racial identity, beats, rhymes, life was our thing
Grateful for KRS, Pac, Biggie, Nas, all real emcees
And undaground artists who keep it real each week
We walk back to plantations to teach emancipation
Slavery comfortable, rappers want no vacation
Bustin they asses for they masters on radio stations
What happened to balls? No more Scarfaces?
It's money, power, then the woman, ya'll disgraces
Ya'll think ya ball, cause insecure bitches kiss ya faces
They black girls lost, ya'll both pawn's in the devil's matrix
America ain't givin u shit, until u decide to give and take
Everybody wanna club hop, pussy pop, trust Satan
Nicca, point ya guns in the right direction, stop hatin
attuned Hiphoppas be out here innovatin
Africans, we always been so fuckin Selfish
That's how they divide and conquer us darker fellas
the problem ain't whitey, it's WHY WE fightin
why we hustling black zombies, crawlin, and hidin
they scared of our unity, so they portray rappers violent
make u think Africans is animals, so u don't like em
imperial tricks of the trade, stop following they ways
think twice whose language this is, to what God u pray
they scared of Nightjohn, they laugh at what u say
we gonna influence even if the world don't change
we wanna see what happens when u live to be great
Nightjohn forever, Bayo, A.K., as earth spirals thru space
- Bayo

Hiphop
Is it true, is it a spot
Clean and clear specifically made for Hiphop
No phase going to stop
As the beat pops my feet drop
To the clap gliding like a floor mop
No club scene made not for me
But I'm an Emcee kickin bliss for free
KRS, Nas, Slick, Kool Mo Dee lead me
Cuttin path that are true baths
Full of democracy stash
through a windy draft
How many souls lack potentiality
Get knowledge stacks and gain your mortality
Mentality is a key vocab slur bag
Translatin, your internal verb math
So like I said before, my feet drop
This is the action when I feel Hiphop

Un-Authorized Bayography of Rahz

Birthname, Joseph Harmon, lived in the Garden State
Redemption from thuggin, bunny thumpin ...wait...

Havin' no proper introduction, wouldn't be wise
This Bayography is un-authorized,
I spit it cause he spark my third eye, this is all for Rahz
...Word was, he was arrogant in elementary
Born in seventy four, parents, military, evidently
From the west indies, has brothers n sisters
They're names, I forget, he told me the list
That point in time, it was a lot on our minds, fightin trix
...he had come up in Cali, martial arts, in the valley
Met Tupac, once before Shakur was famous
Joseph's X-girls shall remain nameless
Lots of violence in the California streets
Joseph got tangled up at times in beef
Niggas told him go home, streets was no place to be
... he listened, but in school pimpin, life had no mission
To b-boy, rap, graf, draw, disobey the law, sell weed raw
five percenters had migrated from New York
into the west coast schools, some got in brawls
Joe got shanked by Latino's in a bathroom stall
toted a pistol, unfortunately a comrade got caught
stayed in touch with his boy locked behind bars
the rules, Joe converted to Orthodox Islam, born new
Allah u Akbar, he became Yousef Rahz, Light is Truth
had a white teacher who admired African youth
at age of eighteen, Rahz and his family moved
to Clarksville, Tennessee, no Hennessey, still thuggin too
Rockin ice, the Headtouchaz was his crew
Battling, jeep rattlin, mackin, in fights too
All the while studying, Egypt, Asia, n Hebrews
Worked for a cable company, writin poetic tunes
Fashion, spending cash, 'n ladies comin' thru
Had a fiance' she left him, shiesty shit women do
Kung fu master Rahz, a warrior, found a new gig
Convergys call center, met Marilyn, she was raisin two kids
bonded in marriage, Rahz's Divine Purpose became bliss
named his first born princess Jah-Ra-El, as he gave her a kiss
-Bayo
Peace to KRS-ONE,
I neva forget when our palms first met
December twenty two, two thousand three
Club nine-thirty, I had no cash to get on my feet
stumbled my way up to the temple
Malik-one said look for Server, say I sent u
G-Simone watched me real close

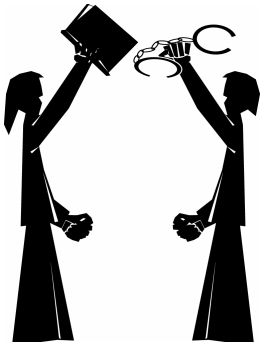
Guess it takes awhile 'fore she feel folks
I'm a new face, but I'm an old soul
U was lookin like, "who's this negro??"
Short, light skinned, clean cut, my face glowed
Self is all I could show, "Yo man, I'm Bayo,
I'm ready to build," and I was for real.
U was like "Word, That's What's Up."
Looked at me thinkin... what next...What???
I had a spiel man, but you...you is KRS!
mad respect, I was star struck I guess
plus you was bout to fuck wit sound check
timin wasn't right, I spoke to Firoots next
our dialogue built upon youth and Truth
I acted on pure faith, yet knew not what to do
Of my vast potential, we have not a clue
This some deep ass Spirit we tappin into
Heart is all I got, everything else has failed
I'm a Leo, a lion, only dogs run away waggin tails
Me, I'm a fighter, I'm a dust myself off n keep tryin
You need to know me on this march to Zion
if I have to slay crabs with torches and Krylon
You'll soon put faith on me as a rookie
When Tokyo, Paris, n London book me
I'm a mixed man from Bama, takin the
World by my fingertips, in my grip...ya see
Will I ever Master seven twenty....degrees?
Would I what? I Never give up. I'm mentally tough....
devils got all these shiny rappers out here mumblin stuff
I'm silently slippin into heaven...thus....
I creatively cuff earth's burnin crumblin crust....
-Bayo

Peace to Nas,
Tina of Patterson New Jersey tested me first on you
In D.C., summer ninety four, asked me rap verses I roll to
I was thirteen, she was eighteen, fast -n-sexy too
We never crushed, her moms -n- my pops was cool
God knows, what we did in her hotel room
She said, "You heard of Nas?" Like I was slow dude?!
I said, "The World Is Yours...It ain't Hard to tell boo."
She said "Be careful, niggas'll be jealous ...'u cute.'"
On the real, I never knew, I would ever rap too
thought it was something only N-Y thugs would do
always had ya back man, even as a fuckin fan, I'd salute
Age sixteen to nineteen to twenty two, seemed me & u grew
Spirit is deep, feel like I've seen all that u been thru
ya albums alone kept me buzzed, as I'd sip prophetic brew
microphones and speakers had connected clues
Of how I'd been misled, mis-read, mis-educated instead
Anger used to fill my head, then my heart, before it'd depart
It had to be squeezed through my fingertips, just like this.....
Fuck it, no more childish things, I'm twenty four
Grown man, won't feel like a boy or like I'm poor
inside me, the wealth of nations, diamond ores
pride in my Self thunders, then rains and pours
divinity, proud that's what my name stands for
Adebayo Alabi Olorunto, the sacred answer
Gladly, fly yo, casually, a faithful rhyme romancer
Against All Oddz, I Am... Alpha And Omega, a chancellor
Of higher thought, master of dramas, articulate stanzas
I traveled very far, to ignite fear in demonic cancers
Thanks for the interlude on letter to the Feds, my answer...

Cover blown, now it's known, we ride in tangent
U asked me to put it down, live now, here's my advances
four hundred pages, Hiphop driven life , with wolves we dancin
May elitist devils drowned in boiling rancid acid
U overstand, these college boys think I'm drastic
Olorun's hand will guide me, music industry is plastic
May my fire melt it's walls, todays rappers have raisin balls
Can't speak against the system enslavin us all
Raisin' my quality of life, a standard more higher than all
In ninety nine, on wall street, financiers fucked us all
They needed cash for dubya's rigged election
Swallowed my Yoruba fathers finances, amateur investors
Forced me out Vandy, my mind hurt, I've never felt free
I-R-S claimin I owed sixty thousand for a false tax lien
They got my social security, how dare they harass me
I'm like Gandhi's ghost, in Ghana's ghastly ghettos graspin'
Bayo

Peace to Walt a.k.a. the Passion Prophet,
Walt, a CEO, a lyric writin sage
of all my strugglin days
I was jugglin too many plays
fumblin, stumblin in the game
gettin scored on feelin pain
I'm a younger coach, needin growth
I had to go back to throwback
U know Vince Lombardi's attack
Simplify, execute, won't look back
Stadiums, ninety-seven percent packed
u disciplined, precise maneuvers
I was slippin, cause I was newer
to prophetic passion tactics
Askin why I'm denied access
to the Superbowl of poetic matches
coaches call fifty yard passes
players get hurt, fallin on they asses
visionaries, sip supergreens laughin
readin God's score screen n mackin
to call plays, I need a lil more focus
to launch a label or a Hiphop opus
u watch from skybox, I noticed
All I needed was the Keys to open
a door to staircases of pure devotion
so I can build a team, n grow it
Then I'll chill with ya'll chosen
while I tighten my composure
I found the Keys, the world's on my shoulder
I'll be teachin Alicia and Oprah
Bring some fruit and water...not soda
I'm A Universal playbook holder

-Bayo



The O.L.O.R.U.N. Foundation

"As emissaries of O.L.O.R.U.N., we measure our greatness by our devotion and willingness to serve others."

--Adebayo Alabi Olorunto,
Chairman/C.E.O.

The O.L.O.R.U.N. Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to advancing freedom of thought for all world citizens. We serve as a vehicle to bring together individuals from all walks of life who desire to help others. Both our activism and volunteering serve as a force to ease human suffering and are catalysts for empowering others. Our objective is to use Hiphop strategies to inspire, empower, and entertain people who are often forgotten and feel left behind in fast paced, technologically advanced societies. These people are often harshly treated within mis-educated populations by inhumane elitists. Our efforts are to increase civilization and decrease inhumane acts by creating higher levels of social, cultural, and political thought processes for all people.

"Our Love Of Rap Unites Nations"

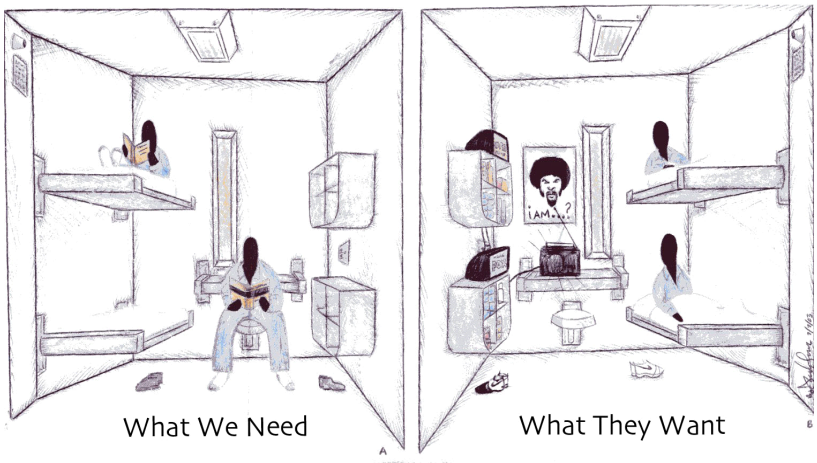
We are Hiphop. Our Purpose is to make a difference in the quality of life for children, the homeless, hungry, the prison population, and the elderly. We uplift our communities and serve the public, remain a source of hope, light, and inspiration for those facing human suffering, and provide meaning and evoke will to survive among people who are facing obstacles and painful challenges. We are dedicated to performing heroic, courageous, random acts of kindness, giving, love, and emotional support to people in various conditions and circumstances that may be insecure, unpredictable, and uncomfortable. Our love of rap unites people of all cultures, religions, and belief systems through the synergistic force of edutainment, volunteering, and public service.

Each year we, at the minimum we strive to:

- Strategize methods of getting books, C.D.'s, videos, and Self-improvement products to prisoners who seek to open their minds, free their Spirit, and develop Self-knowledge.
- Organize and assist in providing meals during the holidays for the homeless and hungry.
- Create and promote programs that inspire children to think for themselves, participate in art and music, as well as attain Self-knowledge.
- Coordinate social gatherings that unite elderly citizens with Hiphop youth to promote the sharing of knowledge, wisdom, understanding/overstanding and to increase communication and companionship from generation to generation.

olorunhiphop@yahoo.com

TIME WELL SPENT **OR** WASTED TIME



**(This drawing was contributed courtesy of MIM prisoners…
Help prisoners get books!!)**

Help Prisoners Get Books

"When a cause comes along and you know in your bones that it is just, yet refuse to defend it--at that moment you begin to die. And I have never seen so many corpses walking around talking about justice."

- Mumia Abu-Jamal

We have a mission to help the prison population have access to valuable information in the form of books, videos, and C.D.'s. We see that the prison industrial complex is run like a business and prisoners are treated like slaves. We would like empowering knowledge to be available to ALL prisoners nationwide. We know that programs are cut back, prisoners are not getting opportunities for Self-improvement, and prisons are overcrowded. It is a shame that on top of miserable conditions, many inmates must remain ignorant to particular knowledge that is intentionally left out of prison libraries. We know that no knowledge should be off limits when it comes to reform and redemption. We are interested in accumulating your contact information, resources, and ideas on strategies and tactics we may be able to execute to guarantee that thousands if not millions of copies of books like The Hiphop Driven Life, and any other African and Hiphop empowerment books are shelved in prison libraries in abundance. While we may not be able to have such thought provoking books distributed to ALL prisons, due to the fear of prison owners. It is our vision, that many prisoners will one day read books by their African and Hiphop brothers and sisters who know that there is no struggle without progress….and progress is a reflection of freeing our minds in victory over the streets!

If you would like to help us please send an email to:

olorunhiphop@yahoo.com

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Who is Nightjohn?

Adebayo Alabi Olorunto, a.k.a. "Bayo"

Renaissance man, Emcee, Author, Humanitarian, Diplomat, Peacekeeper, Warrior, and Entrepreneur… A lover and a fighter… The list goes on and on. A true leader in Hiphop Kulture, Bayo represents the essence of Hiphop: Courage. He is a Self-educated, Self-made leader among leaders. He has written one other workbook, "I Am" Molecules, Time Mastery for an Attuned Hiphop Lifestyle. He is also a professional speaker. He is founder and co-chairman of The O.L.O.R.U.N. Companies, the Hiphop community's premier resource for Self-improvement products and services.

Arnett Kale Powell, a.ka. "A.K." & "Divine"

A true hero, A.K. is Co-chairman of The O.L.O.R.U.N. Companies. He is also an author, emcee, professional speaker, beat maker/producer; and martial artist. A stand up man representing the potential of today's Hiphop youth. Having graduated high school after only three years, he serves the greater good by sharing his skills of the power of empathy, Self-knowledge, and Self-mastery, skills which bring inspiration, hope, and empowerment to young people all over the world.

O.L.O.R.U.N.

Our Divine Vision

We are the world's #1 leader in Hiphop manifested Self-improvement, inspirational, empowering, metaphysical, music, entertainment, motivational information, books, products, and services for the International Hiphop Community. When people think of a high quality Hiphop Lifestyle, The O.L.O.R.U.N. Companies stand out as being the best resource for acquiring the necessary strategies for making this style of life a true R.E.A.L.I.T.Y.

Our Divine Mission and Purpose

Our sole Divine Purpose is to promote unity in the world. We seek to increase the quality of life for individual human beings living unique Hiphop Lifestyles and advance the progressive civilization of members within the International Hiphop Community. We value and respect all life forms in the Universe; therefore our products and services preserve Hiphop Kulture as a true Kulture of peace and prosperity. Our mission is to use entertainment, multimedia, technology, music, and film to spread the Force of Absolute Love, Absolute Awareness, and Absolute Knowledge of Self and advance all citizens of the world toward their own autonomous Self-determined dreams, visions, Purpose, and ideals. We serve as allies to all Pan-Africanists, the Temple of Hiphop, Zulu Nation, and Rapstation.

"Our Love Of Rap Unites Nations"

Areas of Focus

Our objective is to continue the expansion of Health, Love, Awareness, Wealth, and Self-Knowledge within the International Hiphop community. The H-LAWS were established by KRS-ONE and the Temple of Hiphop and continue to serve as measurements for the standards of our existence and the quality of our lives. We believe that if you want anything in life, it must be made a study. If we want better health, we study the Universal laws behind better health. If we want more loving relationships we study the Universal laws behind loving relationships. If we want awareness and a more developed world-view, we study the Universal laws behind conscious awareness. If we want wealth and prosperity we study the Universal laws behind wealth and prosperity. If we want Self-Mastery, we study the Universal laws behind the creation of our unique Selves. We provide the strategies, tools, techniques, services, coaching, and products to help Hiphoppas raise their standards and bust out of themselves a million times over. We help Hiphoppas worldwide become outstanding in their skill level, productivity, and contribution to the larger community through the application of our unique, innovative, and cutting-edge discoveries.

Health and Wellness Mastery

We know the laws of better health require acute attention and detail, therefore we have sought out the cutting edge leaders in the field of health and wellness prevention. We have found that there is only one sickness and one disease, the over acidification of the body due to an improper way of living, thinking, and eating. We realize that the cure to our ailments, illnesses, weight challenges, lack of energy, and depression is caused by eating a variety of foods that create a build up of acids, toxins, fungi, mold, and candida in our bloodstream, resulting in a HIGHLY acidic blood PH level. We know that combining the proper amounts of rest, exercise, eating habits, and nutritional supplements that alkalize the body; will eliminate 99% of the dis-ease in our body invigorating us toward vibrant energy and allowing us to bask in the fountain of youth.

Love and Relationships Mastery

We know the laws of love require a reciprocal giving and receiving that are based on respect, mutual understanding, and alignment of values and rules. We are currently researching the principles of harmonious relationships. We know that the balance between a man and a woman is identical to the Yin-Yang essence of our Universal nature. Our focus is to awaken people to their own souls so that there is a completeness that allows one to heal his or her Spirit and be a complete individual with something to share, give, and contribute to others. Our applications are not only for romantic love, but also love among all civilized people in general. We help make the Universal language of love to be administered and applied throughout the world. Where it is not applied, we seek to fill that gap and help individuals find fulfillment in their ability to give and receive love.

Awareness - World View Mastery

We know that the laws of awareness are about true Self-knowledge. We are currently creating programs and services to help individuals obtain this awareness. We have researched many key components to acquiring Self-knowledge and seek to continually expand and overstand this key area of life. We view being awake as a gift given by our Creator; to help the world advance in order to increase civilization and humanity. We realize that most of our youth grow up in limited and sometimes negative environments, without the ability to explore and learn from the world and Universe. Our objective is to help youth and all

individuals become more, do more, and have more. By staying updated with current events and not reacting, but seeking to explore Truth, we can make observation a branch and habit that produces fruits for a lifetime.

Wealth and Prosperity Mastery

We know that the laws of abundance are critical for all people in all corners of the world to understand. We recognize the fact that Krishna, Moses, Abraham, Jesus (Yeshua), Muhammad, Buddha etc., were all great prosperity teachers who ever lived. We seek to replicate their abilities to touch peoples lives and allow individuals to see the highest Truth within themselves. We would like for Hiphoppas and all people to learn the power of their own spoken word and overstand the deeper meanings of metaphysical rap power. "Our Love Of Rap Uniting Nations" began a long time ago before the 21st century and the conception of O.L.O.R.U.N. Our love of rap has been uniting nations since the Supreme Being declared "I Am…" We seek to teach others to resonate with this vibe. Through individual Purposeful creative effort and frugality of ALL men, women, and the young, the earth's information and resources shall be distributed evenly among ALL people.

Self-Mastery

We know that the laws of Self-mastery are about stripping away ignorance on a daily basis and replacing human suffering with RIGHT knowledge, RIGHT wisdom and RIGHT understanding/overtanding. Because we are only human, we recognize the need to be gentle but firm with ourselves as humans. Our end fruits are not to be perfect, because we know that would be a futile attempt. We know that we want to be perfect examples of humanity, and we provide services, products, and programs for people to learn martial arts, meditation, and any other form of skill refinement practices. Our goal is to help Hiphoppas and all people, develop the necessary self-discipline, practices, and habits that will allow them to succeed and conquer fear in the 21st century. Fear, Self-doubt, and ignorance prevent our highest Creator from knowing Him/Her Self and we recognize the need to master these inadequacies, insecurities, and illusions that prevent us from tapping the Unlimited power of Hiphop within Self.

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Our Love Of Rap Unites Nations' Portals

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