

## "Lost in the sauce"

By: Ceso Sprewell Nasir Wali Muhsin.

To start, This measure unfolds only due to a dialogue I had on the night of 6/26/2011 with one of my dearest Muslim brothers/friends about what the older/elder generational people need to do in order to in essence stay or be relevant to the younger or "more hip" generations.

I was quite taken aback by what I was hearing only because of *who* I was hearing it from, as the brother is someone whom I consider to be more of a leader, someone who I *thought* was about "progression and individualism" vs. "back stepping and groupism" or better yet "stagnation, regression".

I'll make it clear that I won't attempt to revisit the entire dialogue but those relevant points and statements will be stipulated herein only for the sake of saving face... (E.g. time)

It all begin when the dear brother stressed that: "If the older generational people don't keep in tune with the younger generational people and what's new and hot for them they'll {the older people} be or get..... *"Lost in the sauce"*....

Now, naturally I attempted to get specific by stating that it's not hard to pick up a hip-hop magazine, flip to a hip-hop or R-and-B video station, or listen to a few young teens or adults to pick up on the latest gear, fashions, styles, Ebonics or street drug of choice. But only a fool would try to use these things in order to stay or be *"relevant or influential"* to the younger generations.

He used the hip-hop icon Jay-z (i.e. Shawn Carter) to try and drive his point home but {in my opinion} that didn't work out too well only because I know the extent of Jay-Zs' history, struggle and contribution to the game and I will make it clear to you-all that I myself look up to and admire Jay-Z. He along with the profound Prophet of Al-Islam (Muhammad Abdullah Mustafa... Peace be upon Him.), my momz (Mrs. Janice Sprewell. A true princess, in her own right) and my father (Mr. Cecil Nip Sprewell Jr. May he rest in peace) are amongst those whom I hold in high regards with regards to being "older, trend setters, game shooters, leaders, and extremely knowledgeable with explosive charisma, people skills, and tolerance" all of which are key elements to being and staying relevant to *any* generation or kind of people.

But let's ponder on jay-z for a hot second. Here's a man that *contributed* not only to the rap game immensely but the fashion and business game as well, not to mention that he's also into the business aspect of the sports and club scene among other things. It's not because he sat down or with a bunch of young youth to see and or figure out what they felt he should be doing to stay relevant or "in the sauce". NO! Jay-Z set out to be and do "*his own thang*" and to be "*his own man*" and to do so he took major steps towards major success. He has a song/rap that has one bar in it that states: "I'm not a {businessman}; I'm a {business-man!}". The man said he's a *business* in and of itself not just a simple or mundane *businessman*. Then there's a song he has called "On to the next one". This song premiered on national T.V. for 2009 New Year and in it he gives a rapid list of his goals, set backs, growths, accolades etc. that he has encountered with the repetitive course line of "on to the next one"!!!!!!

I recall how "frozen" I was. I was stuck to my bed because the words to that very rap or *course* thereof not only enunciated but elucidated "my whole life agenda and concept". (E.g. keeping it moven at all cost.)

You see, when you make yourself or become relevant as not to get *lost in the sauce*, you simply must step up to the plate, face the ball of life head on, swing that bat, knock your goals and agenda outta the park, and move swiftly to all (4) bases without looking back until you make it to home base. *Period...*

I refuse to think or believe that one in essence must act or be like and/or hang out with a bunch of young adolescents or adults in order to "*remain relevant*" because in my opinion this is why we got so many poverty stricken, uneducated, and mentally malnourished youngsters, adolescents, and adults in our hoods and inner-cities now. Nobody wanna grow up, be responsible, be mature, or even be leaders to and for these young kids. You got all these GROWN a@# *men* and *women* out here trying and failing without limit to conform to and/or live like these YOUNG a@# *boys* and *girls*. Now who's really "lost in the sauce"???? ☹️

Who are we {I'm 35} to feel like if we aren't thinking, talking, acting, and dressing like we young kids or teenagers that we'll be "lost in some dumb a@# sauce" ☹️??? That's bull\$#!& because if and when you sit back and peep the latest videos, songs, dialogue, and styles of the so called hip-in the game youngsters then compare that to the educational, economical, spiritual, emotional growth and self worth of today's inner-city youngsters and young adults, only a fool would think, feel or believe that "that's what's up". Most of them can't even read, or write. Don't have proper grammar. Can't even tell you where the fabrics come from with regards to the gear they're sobbing, robbing and killing over. Ask 20 of them where Burberry came from, Averx, Gucci etc. and you might get one who can tell you. Ask 20 of them how many wars we're in and why they started, at best you'll hear that: "America just wanna take them people oil". Most of them don't even realize that

the very main reason that they're in their current circumstances is because they so focused on trying to be young a@# kids at heart and mind all while refusing to grow up. I'm not geeing for it. Sorry.....☹☹

My theory is this; I'm doing ME in a shell of growth, development, and prosperity. "I'M WHAT'S UP". I'm not about to be chasing down a bunch of grown A@# men and women in order to wake *them* up from their dream and delusion of trying to be in the sauce of some young teens. I'm keeping it moven. I study, grow, ponder, read, watch and listening while in essence I maintain my gift of "charisma, humbleness, adaptability, and approachability". I stay smiling and let people be. I'm seeking bigger and better not what's hip or hot to and for a generation I've past. Why do you think our parents and older gradients use to tell us stuff like "Boy you ain't doing nothing new or slick", or "I could tell you this or that because I've already done it when I was your age". Me, I think outside the box, I'm "*on to the next one*" while everyone else *trying to keep and catch up*.

This is how one stays in the game in my opinion, you simple stay ahead of the rest not behind them or trying to keep up with them. A true leader, player, or boss sets the tone, leads the way, and calls the shots, and as lone as you got good people skills, a bright personality and a humble soul you'll always be {*the sauce*}.

Jay-Z!!???.. Oh, gear, music, clubs, labels, president, Forbes list, coldest chic in the game, vet, icon, mentor and the list goes on. Tell me, do you think he reached those heights by trying to get like or be like some youngsters? Jay-Z done been there and done that so he's "*on to the next one*". That's what he raps about (i.e. what he's already accomplished and done.) "He" set the standard for these young minded A@\$ kids to strive for. He's not sitting around thinking: "hhuuummm I wonder what's hot to the youngsters nowadays". He's like: "f@#! it, I'm about to MAKE this or that hot". He ain't waiting around for the next person to call a hip or hot shot. Look what he did to the "Yankee hat", the color "blue" (i.e. Jay-Z blue). He took sh!@ that been around for eons and made it hot. "He" set the standard and raised the bar. He got people wearing his gear, bumping his music, coming to his clubs, wishing to be on his label, fantasizing about his wife, attending games that he part owns. The list goes on to show that Jay-Z is a leader and a boss not the type that sits around trying to do what some young adolescents doing in order to keep himself relevant. He's leading the pack. {Simple as that..!!!!}

I truly feel that one will always be relevant to "ANY" and all generations to come by simply being true to oneself 1<sup>st</sup> and by staying mentally, spiritually, emotionally

and physically balanced and healthy. Don't be afraid to step outside the box or shell of what "*every one else is doing*". Try new things, study thy self, and expand your horizon by reading about politics, science, the animal kingdom, sociology, religions, and psychology etc. Study art, languages and music. Many of today's inner-city young adults don't even have a basic education, communication or computer skills, they don't know how to lease a car or an apartment, they don't even know how to vote or why voting is even important, *BUT* they geared up, can talk plenty slick s!%&, use 1,000 profane words in a 10 word sentence, they got mean swagger and swear they got "G"={game}. It's *sad*, not to mention, that most of them are *emotionally tender* and *spiritually dead*. They lack the necessary people or communication skills to survive in any jungle other than the hood, ghetto, or slums. It's to the point that most of them feel that someone who's not cursing up a storm, acting hard, mean-mugging, can't read, write, or spell, if you're not denigrating women or gone off some type of mind altering drug, not sporting the latest gear, you're speaking intelligently or you're conscious and aware then you're not up on game. You're lame. SQUARE..... How funny!!!!!!

On average, 2-3 times a week someone says to me: "Man Nasir, you got a glow about yourself". Or they'll say: "Nasir every time I see you, you're smiling and looking so humble". They say things like: "Nasir, you stay on a power move or you always reading or writing something inspirational or positive". Like noted, I've been hearing all those types of compliments all my life so it's nothing new. But just recently a hommie came to me and said something quite new; it was like a breath of fresh air. He said: "Nasir, you be chillin like a mu#\$\$^%@ dawg. Every time I see you you're given somebody some game or knowledge or you're just pulling tension outta the atmosphere". I'm like: "Yeah, no doubt, that's what I do". Then he went on to say: "Dawg you so down to earth and true to life that people can't help but love, respect and wanna be around you. You're easy to talk to and get along with. Man you're like a f@#\$in *oasis*, you just sit back and chill while people seek you out for knowledge, wisdom and advise, you don't be running around trying to push stuff down peoples throat or acting like you know everything. Dawg don't ever change".

Throughout his line of ego busting I had only keyed in on one word i.e. "OASIS". For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in my life I was at a lost of words because at 35yrs old I've received complements of every nature and sort but this one was the apex, the zenith, the summit of them all. This was the complement that told me that I'll never be *lost in the sauce* and that I'll always be *relevant*. How many people do you know that could be called or considered an "*oasis*"? Have you ever been called that??? Go look up the word oasis...(Pause)..... Now that's some deep s@!% ain't it yall.☺

My point is this, you don't have to be, think, act, dress or talk like everyone else in order to be in, hip or in the sauce. Just be true to yo-self, stay emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and physically healthy and informed about the "WORLD" of knowledge and information and always be humble and ready to share your

knowledge with those who seek it. Keep your spirits up. Don't be afraid to grow or be yourself, and you too will be like an oasis or in essence "*in the sauce*". Meanwhile, "*I'm on to the next one*" 😊😊

I am: "Ceso Sprewell Nasir Wali Muhsin"...

Okay everyone that's *my* take/thesis on being/remaining relevant and in the sauce. What's yall take on it? What does it mean to be relevant to all those you come into contact with? How do yall stay in the sauce? Please blog your thoughts and send them to me so that I can learn and grow from them.

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