

DEAR LASHONDA!

WHEN I WAS ABOUT 8 OR 9 I WOULD OFTEN TIMES WATCH FROM AFAR HOW YOU COULD GRACEFULLY REACH ON TOP OF THE FRIG TO GET BREAD OR CEREAL WITH EASE,....HOW THE LIVING ROOM SHELF SEEMED TO BE AT EYES HEIGHT FOR YOU OR SIMPLY HOW YOU WERE SO "TALL" TO AND COMPARED TO (ME)....ALL THE WHILE I WAS FORCED TO USE A CHAIR TO GET THE BREAD OR CEREAL FROM ON TOP OF THE FRIG,. THE LIVING-ROOM SHELVES SEEMED TO BE AS HIGH AS "MOUNT EVEREST" TO ME, AND AT THE TIME,. WELL,. COMPARED TO "YOU" (I) WAS SIMPLY "SHORT"..... I WOULD WISH LIKE HELL OR COULDN'T WAIT TO BE A TEENAGER SO THAT I COULD ONE DAY BE TALL LIKE YOU IN ORDER TO GET THE BREAD,..LOOK ON TOP OF THOSE SHELVES OR FOR ONCE TO LOOK YOU RIGHT IN THE EYES..... WELL, TODAY BIG SIS I'M 6 FEET TALL, WHICH IS A FEW FEET TALLER THAN YOU WERE BUT I WILL SAY THIS..... "IT FEELS GOOD TO BE TALL LIKE YOU"!!..

GROWING UP I'VE WATCHED HOW YOU WERE SO OUT GOING,. CHARIS- MATIC AND SUCH A PEOPLE MAGNET AND I WOULD OFTEN TIMES SAY TO MYSELF: "WOW, SIS IS LOVED BY EVERYBODY,. I HOPE ONE DAY I COULD OR WOULD BE LOVED AND LIKED LIKE THAT".... WELL LOVE,.. TODAY I'M 35, I'M KNOWN TO BE WHAT THEY CALL A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY,. I GOT A-LIL SWAG ABOUT MYSELF, NO ENEMIES EXCEPT SHAYTAN-(SATAN THE ACCURSED),.. I'M HUMBLY, GENTLY AND OUTGOING..... PEOPLE ARE COMFORTABLE AROUND ME EVEN THOUGH I'M A DEVOTED MUSLIM (I.E GIVEN THE BOGUS STEREO TYPE THEY PLACE ON MUSLIMS IN THE MOIVES AND MEDIA THESE DAYS ABOUT TRUE ISLAM AND MUSLIMS) AND SO TODAY BIG SIS IT FEELS GOOD TO BE...."JUST LIKE YOU"!!....

ONE DAY AND AGAIN FROM AFAR, I WATCHED YOU SMILING AT A PHOTO.... YOUR SMILE WAS SO BRIGHT, CUTE, WARM, AND WELCOMING THAT I THOUGHT TO MYSELF: "ONE DAY MY SMILE WILL BE LIKE THAT".... YOUR SMILE WAS SO CONTAGIOUS THAT I WOULD CATCH MYSELF TRYING TO SMILE LIKE THAT... YEP! TWINKLE IN MY EYE, CHEEKS UP HIGH,.. BROWS SLIGHTLY RAISED,.. TEETH PROPERLY SHOWING AND WARMTH WRITTEN ALL OVER MY FACE.....(THE WHOLE SHA-BANG)☺..... JUST RESENTLY WHILE WALKING PASS A REFLECTION PLAT I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF MYSELF SMILING AT SOMETHING I SAW ON TV AND SIS I SWEAR IT WAS AS IF I WAS LOOKING AT YOU SMILING..... IT MADE ME SMILE HARDER AND BRIGHTER,. AND ALTHOUGH MINE IS A BIT MORE MASCULINE AND ADORNED WITH A GOATEE I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT; "I SMILE....JUST LIKE YOU"!!

YOU WOULD CRY FROM TIME TO TIME USUALLY FOR THINGS CON- CERNING THE FAMILY OR YOUR OWN PERSONAL ISSUES AND NO MATTER WHAT, YOU DO SO WITH PURE STYLE AND GRACE.... THE SOUND OF YOUR SOB WAS LIKE A PRAYER TO GOD,. THE GRIEF OR PAIN ON YOUR FACE EXUDED RESILIENCE,. YOUR TEARS LIKE WATER FROM THE GREAT WELL OF ZAM-ZAM, YOUR SNIFFLE LIKE THE SOUND OF CALMING MUSIC.... I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT WHEN I CRY FOR AND ABOUT ~~VARIOUS~~ VARIOUS THINGS LIKE BEING INCARCERATED, LONELINESS, NOT HEARING FROM FAMILY,.. MISSING YOU,. MISSING THE REST OF OUR SIBLINGS,.. TODAY (12/24/11) I WROTE THIS TO YOU AND JUST YESTERDAY MA WROTE ME ABOUT HOW SICK SHE IS,.. NETTES SICK, GRANDMA NEEDS HELP, I CAN'T HELP, HOLD, OR CARE FOR THEM,. MY LEGAL BATTLE IS A WHIRLWIND WITHOUT LEGAL AID OR OUTSIDE SUPPORT,. I'VE THIS DEEP DESIRE TO BE LOVED, HELD, GIVEN THE BENEFIT OF DOUBT AND UNDER- STOOD BY A QUEEN, A SOUL MATE, ETC..ETC.. SIS, WHEN I'M ALONE AT NIGHT IN THIS CELL, IN THE DARK I CRY BUT I CRY WITH GRACE AND ALTHOUGH PAINFUL, STILL "I CRY...JUST LIKE YOU"... (SNIFFLE AND ALL)..

YOUR LAUGH!... WOW!... IT'S LIKE THE "AZAN OF SALAT" BOOMING WITH PASSION YET HUMBLE AND SHY, EYES SLIT, SHOULDERS HUNCHING UP AND DOWN,.. "CONTROL LOST"... THE PLEASURE OF A GOOD AND WHOLE-SOME LAUGH IS THERAPEUTIC IN AND OF ITSELF BUT YOURS WAS LIKE MEDICINE.... (HEALING).... ITS BEEN SOME YEARS SINCE I'VE HAD A GOOD AND HARDY LAUGH,.. TIMES ARE ROUGH, IT KEEPS ON SLIPPING AND AT TIMES I SWEAR THAT MY SOUL AND SPIRIT IS ON ICE... LONELINESS IS LIKE "CANCER",. IT EATS AWAY YOUR CORE DILIGENTLY "BUT" I (WILL) SAY THAT WHEN I DID LAUGH I WOULD CATCH MYSELF "LAUGHING.... JUST LIKE YOU"!!....

"QUITE SELFISH, DETERMINED, AND TRULY CONFIDENT,"... (ALL) OF THOSE WORDS DESERVES TO HAVE YOUR PHOTO ATTACHED TO THEM BECAUSE (YOU) MY BELOVED SISTER ARE THE QUEEN OF THEM ALL... I'VE WATCHED YOU SET YOUR MIND ON ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING AND AS IF A NO-BRAINER YOU SET OUT TO ACHIEVE, EXCEPTING "YES" AS THE ONLY ANSWER, ESTABLISHING PURE "SELFISHNESS" AS YOU PRESS FORWARD WITH (NO) NOT BEING AN OPTION ON THE TABLE.... POUTING IF NEEDED, ANGER IF CHALLENGED,.. DEVIOUS YET CHARMING IN YOUR PLOT, ALL WHILE GRACEFULLY CONFIDENT OF THE END RESULT. NOT TO MENTION THE TIMES WHEN YOU'LL COP AN ATTITUDE THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD... MAN SIS!... THE TECHNIQUE IN AND OF ITSELF IS SOMETHING THAT REQUIRES STUDY, THE LIKES THERE OF COULD MAKE OR BRAKE THE AVERAGE JOE....

WELL LOVED ONE,.. FOR ME IT WAS A MUST HAVE FACTOR,.. I JUST HAD TO ADD IT TO MY TOLL BELT,.. BOX AND SHED.... MA ALWAYS SNAPS AT ME FOR COPPING AN ATTITUDE OR NOT TAKING (NO) FOR AN END RESULT .... SHE'LL TELL ME NO OR THAT SHE CAN'T DO SOMETHING AND WITHOUT THINKING TWICE I'M THINKING OF OTHER WAYS TO GET THE YES!...IT'S FUNNY BUT HEEEYY.... IT FEELS GOOD "TO GET THE (YES).... JUST LIKE YOU"!!....

LASHONDA, I COULD GO ON FOR EONS EXPRESSING THOSE THINGS ABOUT YOU THAT I'VE EITHER ADHERED TO, LIKE AND LOVE ABOUT YOU BUT THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL IS THAT **YOU'RE MY SISTER** AND I MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY AND ALTHOUGH YOU'VE PASSED ON I FIND IT HARD TO SAY GOODBYE,... THE VERY THOUGHT OF IT ACHES MY QUALB= (QUALB IN ARABIC MEANS THE SPIRITUAL HEART.... BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW I SPOKE ARABIC DID YOU!!)

NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE OF MY INCARCERATION I WAS NEVER ABLE TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOU.... IT HAPPEN SO SUDDENLY,... NO WARNING WHAT SO EVER AND SO I GUESS THIS IS MY LETTER TO YOU EXPRESSING MY PAIN, LOVE, JOY, AND APPRECIATION OF YOU. ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE MUCH LONGER I CHOOSE TO KEEP IT SHORT AND SIMPLE AS THERE IS MUCH I WISH I COULD TALK TO YOU ABOUT BUT THESE THINGS I'LL JUST HAVE TO HOLD IN UNTIL I SEE YOU AGAIN....

P.S... I STILL HAVE THE LAST LETTER YOU WROTE ME WITH THE POEM YOU WROTE ABOUT LAID CALLED "A RAISIN IN THE SUN".... I CRIED READING IT THE OTHER DAY.... OH,.. AND BY THE WAY BOTH SHIEFF AND KEVIN ARE DOING GOOD.... I DON'T SEE THEM MUCH,... IN FACT I HAVEN'T SEEN KEVIN SINCE MY INCARCERATION.. (9 YEARS) HAS PASSED BUT HE HAS WROTE FROM TIME TO TIME AND NOW THAT HE IS 18 HE COULD COME VISIT ON HIS OWN... "SHIEFF" LIL-HOMIE IS A WHOLE LETTER IN AND OF ITSELF.. MA BROUGHT HIM TO SEE ME A FEW MONTHS AGO AND MAN.... **"HE'S JUST LIKE YOU"** YOUR LEGACY LIVES ON!!

I LOVE YOU

EVERLY

I AM: YOUR BROTHER CESO SPREWELL (NASIR)

"SLEEP TIGHT"

"Happy 39th Birthday"

