

@ Golgotha: The Back Story

PIANKHI



XZYZST

I remember being angry because my workout potna was sent to the Adjustment Center which is the lock up unit for death row. Just out of the blue, Snake was gone and we was just getting started in the basic fundamentals of boxing out on the yard.

I never let anybody know to what degree I was pissed off, but since everybody liked Snake, we was all hot that he was gone. Today is May 15, 2013 and snake is still in the hole. Here's the thing, I was about 5 seconds away from ending my boxing training back in 2010 when the young homie Piankhi walked over to me while I was stepping away from the heavy bag and said: 'I gotta learn how to do that' (both smiling)

It later became obvious that others wanted to learn boxing as well, but Piankhi was like, the come on Let's go type, and because of that quality alone, there was no way I could say no.

One day towards the end of the year, after a long training session, shower and lunch, Piankhi began to get at me about the series of ideas he had stuffed in his brain, after awhile I stopped him in mid-sentence and said "Kick that shit fool, do it" (both smiling)

As we stood in the middle of the yard, I directed his attention to the vast bodies roaming the many deathrow yards and said: "Count me in, I'm with you, however, you are standing in a place built for death, and I would not want to be you because now you literally got to reach into hell and choose hell's finest to make your project pop because it's all kinds of muthathaz up in here, and we don't know who's who around here."

Piankhi said "I didn't look at it like that, but thats real, but it's a whole new generation up here now."

Later that night, I asked myself what could I bring to the creative writing project that Piankhi was about to kick off? And I kept replaying his last words to me over and over again in my brain. "But it's a whole new generation up here now."

So I asked Piankhi if I could interview the New Generation of inner city youth that's coming up here to death row. Piankhi was all happy, I said "Let's call it @Golgotha." Piankhi was like "@ go what? What does that word mean?" "Gothic?"

I explained to him that in my past life I was involved in ministry, and my mentor/foster father laced me up about the final moments in the life of Jesus Christ, which included his last conversation that was written on papyrus while he was hanging on the cross between two other dudes that had also received the death penalty, and the Bible says that the name of that place was Golgotha which means the place of the skull; so I was like, let's continue that conversation in our time from California Death Row

Piankhi began to agree with me and how he understood the connections. We began to run off everything we had in direct common with Jesus like:

- Most of us was viciously hunted
- Most of the New Generation was arrested near to or under the age of 33
- Most of us was falsely accused
- Most of us sold out by our so-called friends
- Most of us was physically abused by guards in jail
- Most of us had our personal clothing and property mistreated & stolen
- Most of us was either inadequately defended or had to be our own lawyers
- Most of us was not judged by a selection of our peers
- And all of us was sentenced to die by a Romanic system

I mean, we just went on and on, everybody knows that Piankhi is a well read younsta, but I could tell that he has a strong family faith based understanding of words that are written in most of the materials that we chop it up about sometimes, I always refer to Piankhi as a wise young man.

Piankhi said "OK, @ Golgotha is your section," I told him "look, I'm going unedited, so whatever is s that's it." As he walked away from that conversation, Piankhi was like, "Lets do a youth oriented one first. I'll hollar at you."

So about a week passed and he blindsided me with our very first @Golgotha cipher, but it was he wh was asking me all the questions. That wasn't my original plan, but it was cool and like a trial run to see how these ciphers would turn out and it turned out pretty much raw and uncut.

Most people think that @Golgotha with AL-B was our first cipher because it made the cut for our first issue of the Write or Die Zine Project. The truth is, that @Golgotha with sniper XZYZST was our very first cipher.

Over the lifespan of the Papyrus collective and the Write or Die Zine Project, so far, we are seeing the Death Penalty being put on the ballots as some form of economics issue, a scheme to attempt to make dollars make sense.

What the @Golgotha ciphers do is present the human aspect to the over all issue. You catch us in our rawest form, nonscripted and unedited. There is a New Generation of inner city youth on Death Row here in California and all over America, and guess what, we are also human beings.

Thanks to deathrowmate.org for turning the thoughts of a wise young man into reality and beyond fr a place where they expect us to crumble. DRI has kept it solid as fuck.

One day my son asked me what do we do on deathrow. I want to share my answer with anyone who is wondering the same thing.

We're up in here, Writing to Live!



XZYZST

THE EAST BLOCK at San Quentin State Prison, where more than 700 inmates are on death row. Officials are grappling with how to deal with the drably inmate.

Photographs by MARK BOSTER, LOS ANGELES TIMES



\* FILE UNDER: PAPYRUS COLLECTIVE

