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" My Education "

By : Ras Uhuru ©\®™ 2/3/2023

1. My education , while a continuum , can be discussed in a division of events in my life ; and this division I shall call

phase one : the pre-educated period and phase two : the educated period . which is the phase of my continuum

that include this class as well.

PHASE ONE : PRE-EDUCATION .

2. I was born in cook county , Chicago Il, when I was a baby or toddler , my mother use to place me in this sunflower

colored yellow baby seat , strapped to the back of her ten speed bike, and every day , for months or for almost the

whole pursuit of the degree , I would go to Chicago state university with , as she attended to acquire a degree in special

education .

3. she was determined to get her education despite what could have been a set back or a delay , I'm sure she had

delayed it for far too long. as the baby of three older siblings . and so as it go , this was my first educational experiences,

though , in my mind , everything is vague and distant , as I can not be sure if my memories are accurate recall or my mind

is filling in the spaces .

4 for example , in my mind , I recall or imagine my mother and I playing this car game, as we rode down the streets.

me now knowing me , I figure she did this to keep me entertained as we rode from a 128 & Lowe to 95th & king drive.

where Chicago state was located at .

5. that game consist of me pointing out the cars I liked or my favorite colored cars .
though not much of a game ,

I could see how that would have kept my mind off the fact I was behind her and had
nothing else to do but sleep .

6. I recall my auntie and an uncle or two , telling me about this bike & baby seat when I
was older and it was in the basement

storage in my grandmother house . when I got locked up that bike was still there.

7. Chicago state was a big part of my childhood as well , because My mother and
godmother started a youth summer

camp program there for inner city youth , and if they did not start it , they ran it . assistant
director & director , respectively .

{ I keep for getting to ask her about this stuff when I call , poor preparation , I'll take
care of it on the revisement }

there , I had my way , because my mother and godmother was in charge and when they
tried to take me to my god-

-mother in attempt to avoid my mother , Ms. Murray would telling them , " take him down
there to his mother ".

who was more stern than Ms Murray would have been any way . I was not doing
anything serious no way , just

a little rebellious . I was a little cocky in retrospection, I thought I was the shit and I had
multiple girlfriends at that time

that contributed to this narcissistic belief . I had this massive crush on one of the
counselors , and she happen to be

dating my counselor , but even they spoiled me too.

8. At camp , in addition to going on trips to museums and the zoo , we learned on the
campus or at C.S how to wrestle,

college level moves , Gymnastics , Karate , swimming , which I already thought I was
an expert in , as my mom also

taught swimming classes there on the weekend and I use to be her assistant , along with one of my brothers .

I can not remember when she taught me to swim , but it had to be like the kids she taught then , from infancy.

the older kids at the camp got more adult programming , like fencing , archery , scuba diving , because my mom ,

I was able to get the scuba lessons ;

9. i met my first celebrity there as well ; Mr. T had just had his big role in the " ROCKY " Juggernaut movies and he came

to the camp to talk to us all , we assembled n to the university basketball court . I got to meet him with my mom and

godmother before he addressed the assembly .

10. He had gave everyone these ' T-shirt's " with his face on them ; I recall getting mine signed by him and hung it on my

wall many years later when I was a teenager , but I got locked up at about 12 , and all the pictures on my wall // celebrity

and otherwise were destroyed by my mother in anger of my incarceration . [I had met "the real Roxanne " and U>T>F>O ,

the Force M.D.'s in napp-town the summer of 86 or 87, with my cousin ,and I also had pictures of them on the wall ,

peppered with personal photos of me and the guys of the hood. in these photos , we had guns and other street disruptive

like imagery , and this was the aim at the time of my mom's anger and she did not discriminate, I was later told by one of

older brothers. I had some other celebrities I had met on that wall as well , the fat boys and LLCooJ.]

11. Even though Chicago state was a permanent institution in my life , my childhood dyslexia would stall my education ,

and it would require my mother to take the Chicago Board of education to court to get them to test me and place me

in schools that was to figure out my learning problems and get the help I needed ; and while she succeeded in getting

them to test me , and they qualified my difficulty , they failed me in the school placement scheme as every school they

place me in or was available , I ran from , and I believe it was only after my mom personally found schools did I stop

running from them and participated and went on my own most of the time . which was Sullivan's house on 79th and

Lockport in Lockport IL.

12. when I was younger , from about 6-to-9 , I had always wanted to be a soldier , I had all the cap-guns and greenberie

uniforms that my mom sewed together for me from these do it your self sew kits ; so it was a natural progression for

me to aim to be in JROTC and other junior Military prep schools /classes ; but at that time ,and maybe even now , they

did not take in kids like me . As I look back in shame , how my mother use to have to bribe me with special food , gifts ,

or stuff that she did not mine giving , but were conditioned by my participation in these Rorschach type tests , EKG's ,

MRI's etc. I was a difficult one in this regard , and underlining of it all was the implications that I was some how just

another kid in the big city to fall through the cracks of the system , if no one would fight for me the way she was .

13. Most of the SPECIAL EDUCATION classes back then did not make distinction in regards to the type of learning

problems you had when placing you in these classes ; they just put all of us in one class , they put people who had

mental retardation , mental health , juvenile delinquents and other developmental mental problems that went

unpronounced . and I would rebel again such overly broad labeling by my running out of class/school .

14. To me the mere placement in these special ed classes with others like that made me feel as if they were saying ,

(chicago board of edu) that I too was mentally retarded and was developmentally broke ; and I knew for sure from

the life style I was living in the streets would not allow such labels to hold and I now can say in retrospection that I put

more iron in the cauldron to prove that I was not such , though the people I would have been trying to prove that to would

never see it that way , as the juvenile delinquency I was demonstrating would only help them justify and red herring their

broken government system .

15. So I really was not learning anything , as I went from school to school and retain nothing at all . when I came to

prison , I had to start from point A literally.

16. I do recall though , my mother buying all these learning tools like " Speak & Spell " , " Hook on Phonics " , and some

kit like board game that had this owl , who's eye's would light-up if you got the answer right , the board had that ginger

breadman feel to it , came in its own case ,had these cards etc.

17. Though I recall that , I still did not learn anything ; school became a place I went to , to meet girls and dress to impress ,

or run from .

18. As I got older , I learned to maneuver around my lack of education & learning deficiency ; I would have my brother or

girlfriends fill out job applications for me and learn to use land marks in the community to travel or remember my way ,

because I could not read the street and highway signs ;

19. I did have one girlfriend that knew I did know how to read and she tried to teach me , but embarrassment stop that ;

20. I learned to function as an uneducated man . but this had tremendous limitation upon my choices and sense of

psychological security I now know ; for example , I was offered a job in another state as a chef -cook on a franchise

dinner boat that primarily travel in lakes of the midwest , Michigan , and superior etc. at that time , I felt that my

lack of education had prevented me from taking the job , and it probably would had become an issue at some point ,

inretrospec , I could have maneuvered around it , but I lacked the confidence to do so . not only did I eventually do so as

a drug dealer , though , in renting apartments and buy all the new stuff , it was the female who did all the stuff I previously

felt I could not have done with the main stream job ; this is a perfect example of how the mental handicapping of the

mind and the backwards thinking that society anchor in our minds that the same lot of life seem impossible under one

set of circumstances but perfectly capable under another more inferior ones .

PHASE TWO : EDUCATED CONTINUUM

21. When I was in the Milwaukee county jail at first I hid the fact that I could not read from the guys in there with me ,

but eventually I had to let people know , and my way was by saying at first i just couldn't read certain people handwriting ,

or certain cursive words , which was plausible ; but that semi-concealment was soon to melt away as well .[outside of

prison , i had to admit in our lit classes to not being able to read , so others use to have to recite and i would try to recall,

it by heart , which over time i could not ;]

22. My first reading lessons came in Bible studies , here I was confident to attempt to read and did not feel judged as much

outside that setting ; it was only there and lit classes people would not make fun of you without paying the consequences.

exposing my self here was an act of worship .

23. Spiritually inspired , I started catching on , but I still needed others to read my mail to me . interesting now that I look

back on it , My family ,and those who know I could not read , never sent me long letters , usually a few lines , here is the

money and pictures etc. though , I m unsure if my father knew , now that it is front and center in my mind .

24. If I combine my time enrolled in school since my initial entry in doc until I became an autodidact , it would be about

8 months give or take .

25. this time was divided between three prisons , Green bay , (most time in school) , waupun and Boscobel (supermax -

- GE>D testig) .

26. The most memorable experience was the essay's I had to do in Ms. Banster class in Greenbay ; we had to do reading

presentations on the subjects we wrote about before the class. and I really enjoyed that . this was my first taste of the

real power of writing and reading . I think also I had excelled despite my lack of formal education .

27. I started taking back to my cell the black history and books on Africa /Egypt that she had as check out's , and I would

read them as best as I could , and like Malcolm X I even had to skip over words I could not read , and I too felt a void

from not knowing what they meant , though , the good dictionary I had brought help , it made the reading so laborious that

I had to be dedicated , but over time it be came easy , the hardest part was not knowing how to say them or say them

properly , which is still an issue every now & then . also , reading how Malcolm X had excelled had also inspired me and

continue to do so to this very day to have an impact on my approach to reading ,words and education as a whole .

28. During this period I bought my first set of books , even though , I had already read them , I wanted my own copy to study ,

because they were not books to read one or twice , they were books to read over and over again : they were : 1. Visions for

Black men 2. Community of self (psych .) 3. Miseducation of the negro , 4. Chains and imagery of psychological slavery.

[all by brother Na'min Akbar , a great scholar and trained .