

CHAPTER 4

I'm a thug. My second childhood

*"Yo, dude is 31, livin in his mom's crib.
Ex-convict was paroled there after his long bid.
Cornrows in his hair, still slingin, got a crew.
They break his moms furniture, watching comic view
Got babies by different ladies high smokin L's.
In the same spot he stood since eighty- five well
when his stash slow, he be crazy.
Say he by his moms, hit her on her payday.
Junior High school dropout, teachers never cared,
they was paid just to show up and leave, no one succeeds.
So he moves with his peers, different blocks, different years
sittin on different benches like musical chairs.
All his peoples moved on in life, he's on the corner at night
with young dudes its them he wanna be like.
It's sad but its fun to him right? He never grew up.
31 and cant give his youth; he's in his second childhood."*

2nd Childhood

by Nas

Chapter 4

I'm a Thug--My Second Childhood.

When the notorious white criminals of the 1920's tore up the American streets with their Tommy guns, the media labeled them thugs. This word, meaning "criminal" at best took on new life when the media all over the US started using the term. These American thugs were controlled by a consciousness that gives light to Sigmund Freud's point about two of Europeans traits: that they are a sexual and aggressive people. The tremendous level of aggression mixed with the love of power created this American thug. As with many different things black Americans have imitated white Americans on, the young black thug is an indirect example. Every where you look in America's inner cities you can see this thug. Some of today's rappers, who in many cases are the "voice" of today's generation, have taken the names of some of the white thugs such as Al Capone, one of the most notorious white American criminals of all time.

One thing to note in the difference of an old school thug and a new school thug is that the old school thugs were more organized and disciplined. A street dude, during the old school days knew that before making a move they had to get the ok from the boss. Today, it's every man for himself, this so called snitching that we see in the streets today was almost never heard of back in the day.

Today, the thugs of the early 21st century have become marketable for corporations who are making billions of dollars off their lifestyle and swagger. The brothers who lived the thug life for real, are in turn making pennies off their lifestyles, many just end up in the grave or prison.

Young black thugs have a swagger that creates a tremendous appeal to the masses of people who are addicted to violence and guns. Realistically, many different cultures in the US have a portion of people who live the thug culture in one way or another. The Mexican, Italian, Irish, and Russian mafia's all bring a different form of thugism to their respected cultures. But

clearly, no people has taken on this thug consciousness and turned it on themselves like the young black male. Our youth have in many places of the country, created a civil war that is fueled by menticide, which creates epidemics such as thugism and haterism. This civil war has produced many stages which includes the pre-gang and gang bang era. These two stages show directly, the thug consciousness. No period in black history in America has there been more so called Black on Black death then in these two eras. The pre-gang era was at its height in the 1940's when many black clubs formed and lasted until the Black Panther party was broken up in the 1960's by COINTELPRO, the FBI's special program. This program was used to destroy groups who they felt was a threat to America's freedom. During the 40's, 50's, and 60's, the people of African descent in California began organizing clubs like "The Boss Men" and "The Snyder Boys" to defend themselves from white clubs like "The Spook Hunters," who were based in Huntington Park, CA. These white clubs were assaulting and even killing people of African descent, who were trying to move into better suburban areas mostly because of racism. This is a very important aspect to the beginning of the gang bang era because the Cripz and Bloodz originated from some of these black club type organizations.

Most important to note is that the pre-gang era of the 60's was controlled, or kept from rising out of control because of black groups like the Nation of Islam. They have a great ability to reach the young black males in prisons across the country. Once the gang bang era began, mixed with the training of the mind from menticide, black youth turned the violence on themselves. Going from organizing yourself against white clubs to killing each other can only be done by menticide. The proof is everywhere...if you're looking.

It was told to me once by one of my elders that, after the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, there were rumors in many black communities across the country that said the CIA infiltrated the black clubs and gangs to keep them separated. This separation fueled by the media has led to the spreading of different colored gangs across the country from Oakland, CA to Wilksburg, PA. As of 2008, it has also led to 250 black gangs and 500 Latino gangs with over 500,000 gang members in California alone. Today we have Black and Mexican gangs that have been killing each other for at least the last 20 years. Ask yourself, who is to blame for this? There are

factors that have fueled this thug consciousness which play a role in keeping it alive. The media is an example. Back in the 1980's Corporate Media Machines put out movies like "Colors," showing the world this young black thug who is lost and fooled into killing themselves over colors. All the music videos they play and the DVD's they distribute are contributing to thugism as well. The "Tell lie Vision" (television) companies also get on it by making money off the thug swagger. It seems that, everywhere you look on TV today there are hip hop lingo to help sell their products or shows. This is a good thing only if the companies who use the 'hood swagger give back to the 'hood. It seems at times that society has left these young black males nothing. This feeling is why we get statements from celebrities who are the real black leaders today. West Coast rapper Ice Cube says "They give us guns and drugs and wonder why we thugs."

How can people all over the world not see the part that they are playing in the destruction of the young black man? Why has the lack of fathers, or the wrong fathers, added to this thug epidemic where we are at war over our manhood? Why has money been the reason for people of all races to turn the other cheek and continue to deny the reality of a media machine that has historically been used as a mind control weapon? Some believe that this is war, others see it as an aspect of white supremacy. No matter what you think or believe, there are six to nine thousand people of color who die every year in the world, many from the hands of thugs. Fifteen-year-old thugs are teaching their ten-year-old brothers to be thugs. Mix that with mis-used technology and you'll see how the thug culture has reciprocated.

As I've mentioned, the consciousness of women plays a role in the fueling of this thug consciousness as well. Many of our beautiful women in many cases want a rough neck or, a thug. Their instinct to want a mate who represents power, or strength, draws them to this modern day thug. Their love of thugs, in many cases, doesn't give many young black men a reason to change. Being a black man who came up in the inner cities, I understand that a lot of men do things to attract the opposite sex, which also derive from our instincts. Sexual attraction is one of the main components in the glue that keeps this thugism alive. Women think it's sexy to be a thug. This shouldn't be a problem, but it becomes one because of the spirit that many of these thugs have, which creates negative behavior. Basically "it's cool to act

like a fool.”

This thugism consciousness cannot be destroyed without the help of our women. They must realize that it's cool to be a thug, but we need warrior thugs who are doing positive things to help build strong communities. Women must understand that the black man came into this consciousness through training and from psychological experiences they've been subjected to. Our women must also realize that the young black male's instincts to establish order places them on the corner. For example, our body language shows African instincts that we don't even know we're displaying. For example, when a young black brother stands with his B Boy stance with his left foot forward and arms crossed is the same stance that the Pharaohs' like Ramses II would stand when he was displaying order. These instincts, fed by the misuse of power help allow thugism to live.

Thugism is relied upon by thousands of young black males looking for a sense of being and a reason to live through these terrible worldly conditions they have been subjected to. Tupac, who in my opinion was one of the greatest rappers who ever lived, realizing the power of the word thug, created “Thug Life.” I must state that he did attempt to change the meaning and consciousness of the word “thug.” Knowing what the youth believed they were, Pac used the word thug to reach them. In the early 90's I shouted thug life hundreds of times. As thousands of others have, I memorized every word of Tupacs songs. Genius at its best, Tupac's message was misunderstood and after his death, thugism has taken on a new life fueled by Tupacs imitators. Dr. Amos Wilson clearly states, "Our failure to understand the black male's genius causes us to fail them." Rappers like Trick Daddy, who I'm a fan of, states, "Baby, cause I'm a thug, all day every day, wouldn't change for the world." Young Jeezy, the Atlanta based rapper calls his music label Corporate Thugs. These statements clearly show the mind state of young black people: a mental capacity that mostly comes from the lack of the right education plus their instincts to create something for themselves different from the norm. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that he is oppressed and is forced to try to make something of his own.

Many blacks now live in a culture of self hate, not realizing that our culture is the way we think and act, and, most importantly that it is an instrument of power. Some European



--Replica painting of the Goddess Maat by Ben Morales-Correa.

historians believe that there were thugs when the Kushites ruled the world, but failed to note that their consciousness was different. As you study the Ma'at, you can see the huge difference in our ancestor's consciousness. These Ancient Africans believed the feather represented the Ma'at. This meant that each soul must recite the 42 admonitions of Ma'at at the Day of Judgment, where twelve would judge you to see if your heart and soul is as light as the feather. What admonitions do we live by today?

42 Declarations of Innocence of Ma'at

1. *I have not committed sin.*
2. *I have not committed robbery with violence.*
3. *I have not stolen.*
4. *I have not slain men and women.*
5. *I have not stolen grain.*

6. *I have not purloined offerings.*
7. *I have not stolen the property of the god.*
8. *I have not uttered lies.*
9. *I have not carried away food.*
10. *I have not uttered curses.*
11. *I have not committed adultery; I have not lain with men.*
12. *I have made none to weep.*
13. *I have not eaten the heart [i.e. I have not grieved uselessly, or felt remorse].*
14. *I have not attacked any man.*
15. *I am not a man of deceit.*
16. *I have not stolen cultivated land.*
17. *I have not been an eavesdropper.*
18. *I have slandered [no man].*
19. *I have not been angry without just cause.*
20. *I have not debauched the wife of any man.*
21. *I have not debauched the wife of any man.*
22. *I have not polluted myself.*
23. *I have terrorized none.*
24. *I have not transgressed [the Law].*

25. *I have not been wroth.*

26. *I have not shut my ears to the words of truth.*

27. *I have not blasphemed.*

28. *I am not a man of violence.*

29. *I am not a stirrer up of strife (or a disturber of the peace).*

30. *I have not acted (or judged) with undue haste.*

31. *I have not pried into matters.*

32. *I have not multiplied my words in speaking.*

33. *I have wronged none, I have done no evil.*

34. *I have not worked witchcraft against the King (or blasphemed against the King).*

35. *I have never stopped [the flow of] water.*

36. *I have never raised my voice (spoken arrogantly, or in anger).*

37. *I have not cursed (or blasphemed) God.*

38. *I have not acted with arrogance (?).*

39. *I have not stolen the bread of the gods.*

40. *I have not carried away the khenfu cakes from the Spirits of the dead.*

41. *I have not snatched away the bread of the child, nor treated with contempt the god of my city.*

42. *I have not slayed the cattle belonging to the god.*



--The God Anubis and the Day of Judgment

7 Principles of Maat

1. *Truth*
2. *Justice*
3. *Harmony*
4. *Balance*
5. *Order*
6. *Reciprocity*
7. *Propriety*

9 Principles of "Tehuti" – the Ancient Egyptian deity of wisdom and knowledge.

1. *Mentalism*
2. *Correspondence*
3. *Vibration*
4. *Polarity*

5. *Gender*

6. *Rhythm*

7. *Causality*

8. *Growth and Creation*

9. *Breathing*

The young thug of today should look to the Black Panthers of the 1960's who had a more positive consciousness. Although they did have a section of their organization which was very militant known as the Black Guerilla Family, these black brothers were glued together by their love of people of African descent. These brothers clearly showed us that consciousness controls the body and the mind. They were organized, strong black men with guns and a purpose to live and die for. Today, our strong black men are thugs who are only out for self-preservation. Just 40 years after the Panthers were attacked. I must ask the question; why did many people in the United States call the Black Panthers thugs? This was a smoke screen because Huey Newton was in Law School and Bobby Seale was very intelligent and a skilled carpenter. We can see today that the Black Panthers certainly were not thugs.

Beginning in the 80's, menticide was at full force, giving way to the conditions we see in many of America's inner cities today. This was when a drug called "Crack" was introduced to this modern black thug through many lanes including the death of Basketball's great Len Bias. His death, from a cocaine overdose, gave the justice system a chance to change the American drug laws on cocaine, giving stricter sentences for the youth who sell its new form called crack. One such piece of legislature was called the Rockefeller Laws. This drug Crack initially showed up on the West Coast and quickly spread its destructive force across the country. Take for example the Washington D.C area during the early 80's when first time Mayor Marian Barry was in office. The D.C area came to be known as a haven for the black middle class. This area was filled with many financially stable people of African descent; many benefiting from the



--Black Wallstreet in Tulsa, OK

opportunities having a black mayor produced. Crack took D.C from middle class to one of the poorest, crime filled places in the country in less than 10 years. Even the mayor fell victim to the drug, which feeds one's inner demon. Because of the lack of ability to fight off the addiction to this highly addictive drug and the ignorance to its power, Marian Barry was crucified by the media. In many cases, it seems they used him as an example to show the world the incapable leadership skills of the black man. I have witnessed in my short life, the effects of crack cocaine and what it does not only to those who use it, but to those who sell it; both of whom in many ways become addicted. The user becomes addicted to the high and the dealer becomes addicted to the lifestyle of fast money. As Chicago rapper Kanye West states, "Drug Dealer buy Jordans, crack head buy crack. And the white man gets paid off of all of that."

My own community in Wilkesburg, PA has been destroyed by crack. Our main avenue looks like a ghost town out of an old western movie. In my opinion, Tupac explained this best. He said, "Crack came and its strange how it rocked us." In my younger days, people who sold poison were cool and it seemed that they were just trying to make a living. Now I see that it was at the expense of the black community. Drugs like heroin and crack have in many ways taken the soul out of Black America. I ask you the reader, who do you think invented crack? Some say an evil scientist invented it, others believe it's a government conspiracy. Whatever the case, crack's creators intentions are based in evil. I've had the chance to look at a crack baby who was born three months premature, placed in an incubator fighting an addiction that was unfortunately in her blood stream. I will never forget the look on that young baby's face a

baby who has to fight for her life since birth. We must clearly understand that although crack has destroyed the black community, it's not just a black problem anymore. Those who control the market of illegal drugs don't care the color of the victim.

How can the people get back to the consciousness that black men and women had in the Black Wallstreet of Tulsa, Oklahoma? A town that was filled with everything black owned, from hospitals to movie theaters. To get the young black men of today to see the error in their ways is only one step in destroying thugism. Even at the early ages, young black men must have access to proper education, which includes knowledge of self. Young black males must also have access to proper health care, both mental and physical. These things will help destroy the thugism epidemic and keep another poisonous epidemic from taking its place, therefore securing the black males and females biological existence.