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## Abstract

## A Letter to My Unborn Child

Thoughts, Ideas, Inner Cognitions, Poetry, and Explanations

A Self-Expression Literary Piece

By

Eric Anthony Quarshie

Chapter One

Salutation

For Daddy's Little Woman or Little Man,

I am still undecided concerning the matter of whether I would prefer a child that shares the same sex chromosome pattern as myself, or a child that bares the two X-chromosome pattern that would be the determining factor concerning your gender. Either way, health is all that is truly important; and I am certain that I would be filled with the utmost joy just by your mere presence. One thing that is irrefutable though, is the fact that if you were born a female, I would have chosen to name you Amor Chancel Quarshie. Your mother's opinion regarding this matter would be nothing short of irrelevant. Amor, which is the Spanish word for love, would suit you perfectly, and often times I find myself daydreaming of a life with a beautiful wife and yourself that would allow me to shout, "Mi Amor, Mi Amor," throughout the house to gain your attention. I am fixed on the name Amor because you would be the product of me and your mother's love, in addition to being the love of my life, most importantly, due to the fact that you would receive all of my love and affection for the entirety of my life. Chancel on the other hand, came to me while being in San Francisco on business. While I was wandering Union Square in the spare time I had while waiting for a client, my gazing eyes became fixed on the Chanel logo, and for some reason Chancel came to mind. I could almost imagine your beautiful little face smiling at me, and I have become infatuated with the thought of calling you Chansey for short. Lastly, your initials would be A.C., and this fact would signify just how cool your little self would be.

In the instance of you being a little replica of myself in the gender aspect, I am undecided on what your name would have been. In fact, I admittedly have not given it

as much thought as I have if you were born the opposite sex. The main reason for this being that I would have allowed your mother to choose your name since she would have no input in the instance you were born a female as opposed to being born a male. I hope and pray that she would have not chosen something that, in my opinion, is what I deem "corny." I would give an example, but it is better not to, because a person roaming the world right now, probably bears the name I am thinking of, and I, as I would teach you, try my hardest to never make someone feel negatively about something that they did not choose for themselves. After all, a name is just a name, and whether one likes a particular name is subjective. Society tends to place too high of an importance on names, and those associated with black culture tend to face more obstacles than those with names that are widespread and common. My writing, I hope, requires you to open a dictionary. Because even though I do not speak this way in most instances, especially concerning conversations with my loved ones; and although I feel society places too high of an implication to intelligence based on speech, a good vocabulary, in my opinion, is nothing short of beneficial in this world; primarily for comprehension and communication purposes. My purpose and intention for this extended length letter is to explain, in the best way possible, why I made the final decision not to bestow upon you, the irreplaceable gift of life.

Chapter Two  
The Issue of Religion and God



First off, let me begin by stating that my sole job in this deranged and crazed world is to keep you safe from harm by providing the necessary protection, all the while providing the necessities for you to survive, to the best of my abilities. Unfortunately, one of the only guaranteed properties of this lifetime is something called death. Death is an inevitable reality from which I cannot save you, nor protect you. Death is something like a shapeshifting thief, a supernatural entity, one that can come at anytime, anyplace, or in any instance. I used to fear death. I no longer fear death, but I admit, I am still uncertain what will happen to me when I pass from this life. I often times find myself wondering if I will be subject to face consequences for the wrong actions I have committed and taken part of in this lifetime.

Growing up, I was introduced to Jesus Christ, who, in my opinion should be referred to as Yehoshua, since, to my knowledge, was what he was addressed as when he was born in Bethlehem, a small city in Israel. Yehoshua, to my knowledge, is God, or to be consistent, the term Yahweh should be used in place of God, as this would be the correct pronunciation relating to origin of the word. I believe that Yehoshua and Yahweh are one, and Yehoshua is just Yahweh in a separate form. As the story goes, he provides something I could never, a remedy for defeating death, a remedy that entails eternal life in a place called Heaven; where one is free from pain, hunger, and hardship, permanently. Yehoshua overcame death by living a perfectly sinless life, and then “dying” for the sins of all humankind, which is why if you were to walk this earth you would see an abundance of crosses throughout the world. Do not ever be fooled by the presence of the cross though, often times, “Christians” that bear the cross are the most

hypocritical and conniving people. I wrote the word dying in quotations earlier, because Yehoshua did not actually die, you see, from what I know and believe, he laid dead for three days after being brutally tortured and crucified by Roman soldiers, only to rise again and ascend into heaven. There is more context to the story, but this is the gist of the text. You might wonder why an omnipotent God would allow himself to be crucified, or you might ponder why a person who was sinless could be treated so unjustly or unfairly.

The former makes sense to me for that exact reason you may think it does not. Yahweh, in my personal belief, is an entity that can do what no other entity can do. By this, I mean most would consider God, especially in human form, to be some "Hercules-like" war general, one who has never lost a fight, one that has the most beautiful wife, or wives for that matter; and the most "perfect," envy inducing life. But the God that I believe in came to this world as a humble servant. He was a man not so appealing to the human eye<sup>1</sup>, but continuously worked hard and dedicated his life to the well-being of others instead of himself. Selfishness is a menacing characteristic of human beings, and overcoming this characteristic completely, seems nothing short of a god-like feature in my opinion. Consistently, and very easily, humans are consumed with selfishness, which is very detrimental to the human race, and also the root of many issues throughout the world. Before Yehoshua, again to my limited knowledge, Yahweh's law was different, as he set a different set of rules and statues in place, prior to taking the form of a man. These customs and traditions are still followed by the Jewish religion, a religion that does not believe that Yehoshua is the savior of humankind, nor is he

Yahweh in human form. In fact, they view the Christian story of Yehoshua as blasphemous and fictitious. From the standpoint of a believer in the Bible, Yehoshua came to fulfill the law that was put into place during the Mosaic time, because from my understanding, people had become rebellious and defiant. I am not sure why Yahweh would adapt to humans if he is perfect, but there are verses in the Old Testament that prophesy about a coming messiah, therefore there has to be additional reasoning. His blood that was shed upon the earth atones for the sins of his believers. Yehoshua, if the story is true, could have easily had God send him angels to save him from his persecutors as he stated, unless you take God to be a bluff, which I do not, but instead he was crucified to make the path easier to heaven for all who choose to take that route.

The latter of the two questions that I originally posed is a little harder for me to explain. The world is a cruel place, which is a major deciding factor in why I have made the decision not to bring you into this earth. I will go into details later, but throughout history, people trying to bring light and justice into the world have regularly been subjected to darkness and evil. Innocent people, even children, are regularly subject to death, famine, disease, and persecution on a continual and daily basis. One of the most gloom properties of this fact though, is that if all humans worked together, the majority of these issues, if not all, would cease to exist. I will expatiate on the world and some of the issues present throughout the seven continents later, but ultimately, I cannot explain why innocent people are treated this way, other than selfishness and greed.

If your mind works similarly to mine in any way, you may even question why I believe in such an inconceivable, fantasy-like story. My beliefs chiefly do not stem from

the idea of Yehoshua being instilled into my brain by your grandmother, or anyone else for that matter. Although I admit endorsement was my main reason for my beliefs at first, which I assume is the main reason for many around the globe, the chief basis for placing my faith, or lack of for that matter, in the Son of God Yehoshua is the personal experiences that I have faced in my lifetime. My doubt is not in a God. I believe in a higher being; in fact, I am confident when I say that I know there is a God without a doubt. I can also say that I honestly and truly believe in Yehoshua, however, I cannot honestly say that I know for certain that the story, or my beliefs are true. I have experienced situations throughout the course of my life that have no other explanation than that of a higher power. Many people do not have these experiences, and truthfully speaking, I believe that I have had these experiences because of, not only my mishaps in the past, but also because my ardent belief, and possibly God's will. You see, numerous people proclaim that they are believers in God, but their actions counter the very teachings of their religion. My personal opinion is that this inhibits them from actually experiencing the power of God. When one truly believes, and devotes their life to what they believe in, I believe that they are more likely to experience God's workings. I very well could be wrong though, as all opinions that are not supported by concrete facts can be incorrect. The confusion for me pertaining to my beliefs, comes from not only the details contained within the Bible, but particular circumstances considering my life, as well as the circumstances witnessed of others' lives worldwide.

Hell. Hell is a mind-boggling concept derived from the Bible and other religious doctrines. Although not all denominations of Christianity, as well as many other

religions teach and believe in Hell. Hell is God's punishment for insubordination and defiance of his will. Hell consists of eternal torment as punishment for one's sins. As much as I would like to think Hell does not exist, I have come to the conclusion that Hell does in fact exist, or at the very minimum, some type of retribution for one's detrimental actions does occur in the afterlife. Let me explain. By my calculations, either humans are free to do as they please with no consequences, or humans face consequences inflicted by a higher power, occurring during, or after their life here on earth. With me knowing God exists, I have no choice but to believe in the latter. Furthermore, in order for something to be a just consequence based on my beliefs, one has to experience the same punishment or worse for their ruinous actions. With that being said, you can examine history and select the most evil and heinous rulers, leaders, and people in order to come to an indisputable conclusion. For the sake of a straightforward example, we can explore the life of Adolf Hitler. Hitler was a man who not only intended to eradicate an entire race, but actually initiated his plan, killing millions of people, including many young children. So, for the point of our argument, in order for Hitler to be rightfully punished, he would have to receive equal or greater punishment, but what would constitute that? Death surely cannot be enough, because he caused the deaths of millions of innocent people by appalling and horrific means. Cancer, depression, mental illness, disease, nightmares, or torture still do not seem to counter-balance his actions, as he caused these conditions for millions, as well as their future generations. Therefore, Hitler must be punished in the afterlife, by a higher power, in order to determine a just punishment. Otherwise, a human is free to do as

they please, commit suicide, and get off scot free without a care or any type of retribution. This is my reasoning for believing in Hell. The only alternative to this solution while knowing that God exists, is that God chooses whom he decides to punish, and allows others to go unpunished for some of their abominable acts. I choose to believe in the former, because if the latter is a characteristic of God, in my opinion, that God is not worth believing in.

In the Bible, one can go to Hell for being a fornicator, an adulterer, living a lie, or being sexually immoral, among many other things. This concept seems harsh to me as a human, but as I have learned, a human can believe they are the most intelligent being in existence, and in reality, be a complete and utter fool. Humans have been in existence for thousands of years, and continuously discover new information that makes previous generations look like imbeciles; information that has been readily available since the beginning of time. By way of this realization, I have come to the conclusion that what seems harsh to me, may in fact be just and true. This of course, is just a personal belief though. Moreover, humans are limited concerning knowledge about the workings of the universe and existence. Therefore, what human has the proper knowledge and wisdom to determine what is right and what is wrong in all instances? Without the characteristic of being omniscient, key facts, circumstances, and backstories are often omitted from a person's actions, which on occasion make punishments or rewards unjust. For example, in the past, some homosexuals were deemed mentally ill, and in certain situations, sentenced to death. Actually, in some parts of the world, this still occurs. That same homosexual, however, would argue that they were born homosexual,

and therefore mentally stable. I would like to think the homosexual person is correct and I do believe that some people are homosexual, but I am not even certain of that, because there are many factors that play into a person identifying as homosexual such as upbringing, surroundings, discipline, brain chemistry, and other factors that I do not have proper knowledge pertaining to. Humans cannot even reach a mutual agreement on issues such as punishment for crime, the most effective type of government, or even legal age of consent. These issues, along with many others, are ever-changing around the world, easily proving that humans are not omniscient the same way that the God that I place my belief in is.

Unfortunately, the fact of the matter is, a belief is just that, a belief. **Just because a person believes something does not make it true.** If you pay attention and observe, this fact can easily be proved. For instance, there are thousands of different denominations of Christianity, denominations that teach completely conflicting theories and beliefs about God. Furthermore, Christianity is not the only religion in the world, there are more than four thousand different religions in the current world, and as you might have guessed, since Christianity has conflicting views within itself, the other religions conflict with Christianity to the point where believing multiple religions is just illogical, and more importantly, impossible. This is a harsh reality that often times is casually overlooked in today's world, mostly because religion is the cause of many wars and conflicts throughout history, even though most religions teach the exact opposite. Moreover, most beliefs in religious entities are faith-based, meaning that there is no concrete evidence providable to prove and support one's beliefs. This fact makes

debates and arguments unrelieved and cyclical, so people tend to avoid commencement of them to begin with.

Consistently, leaders in the church are proven to be child molesters, liars, adulterers, swindlers, just to name a few among the many other disgraceful titles they have earned. Violent groups parade other continents murdering, raping, and pillaging communities, all the while saying their work is the work of Allah in the Islamic faith<sup>2</sup>. Frequently, the church of scientology is outed by former members as being a corrupt cult that brainwashes the members and forces them to lead undesired lives. Some leaders of their respective religions are unlettered in their own beliefs, while living and preaching a contradictory lifestyle. For this reason, I am unsure about churches and places of worship. In addition, most churches of the faith that I believe, are different from the church structure that I have learned about contained within the biblical text. Many churches, from what I have witnessed, are nothing more than a business, gaining wealth, while preaching something that they do not truly believe in. Throughout my lifetime, I have witnessed several pastors with decade long tenures resign from their positions on account that they no longer believe in their former ideologies, while others have been publicly shamed for stealing substantial funds from the church.

Many people not involved with the leadership roles of their respective religion are no better than those at the helm of the religion. Millions who claim Christianity, are the exact opposite of what is expected from a Christian according to the doctrine which is the sole basis for being a Christian. From my perspective, this is mainly due to ignorance, but also in many instances, due to a lack of proper teaching and guidance.



Furthermore, I personally believe if a person is to stand for a religion, said person should devote some time to the reading and studying of that belief, otherwise the effort is senseless. Many bear the cross, which signifies the death and resurrection of Yehoshua, yet few actually take the time to read the text which is the primary component for the belief in that ideology. There are some historical artifacts that point to the life of a man named Yehoshua, and others that point to him being the messiah, but the biblical text, besides divine intervention, is the sole evidence for the resurrection of Yehoshua and him being Yahweh. Within the text there are rules and guidelines for one to get into heaven, and also stories and passages that indicate what God expects from a follower. Many Christians live by a mentality that states that God will forgive you for whatever you do, tomorrow is always a new day, no one sin is greater than the next, and as long as you believe in Yehoshua you will be forgiven for your sins and given the gift of free life. After reading and studying the Bible for a brief time period, nothing can be further from the truth.

Yes, the God that I choose to place my faith in is the most forgiving and merciful, but in order to receive forgiveness you must truly be remorseful and repent. To repent means to ask for forgiveness and change your ways by putting your best effort forward in order to not make the same mistake. Most ask for forgiveness but fail to change their ways and continue to promote and take part in the action that they are asking for forgiveness for, making their request worthless. From my understanding, yes, every day is a new day, but without making a sound modification to one's life, this saying is futile. The saying, "no one sin is greater than the next," from the knowledge I have

gained, is misinterpreted by many Christians. In the Old Testament, the books written before Yehoshua was present in human form, God gave commandments to kill people for certain sins and actions, in contrast to lesser punishments for less heinous acts. Furthermore, in the Bible there are verses that indicate that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. In addition, there are lists of certain sins, as I have state before that deem one unworthy of the Kingdom of God. Lastly, in the New Testament, God has literally taken the lives of believers who lied to him while within the church; such as the story of Ananias and Sapphira in the book of Acts. There are more examples of why this saying is simply not true, but I feel as though the provided references are easy to distinguish as to why this saying is inaccurate. The last saying that is widespread throughout the globe, the one that states just believing in Yehoshua is enough, from my understanding is true, but not in the way most interpret the saying. True belief in God and his son Yehoshua entails following his teachings, learning his ways, and living your life by those customs. Most who say they believe, actually do not, or if they do, most likely will not inherit the Kingdom of God due to their sinful nature. Faith without works is useless and works without faith are unavailing.

Another facet of believers that I do not understand is their hypocritical disbelief in God's power. After experiencing what I underwent, I expressed my tribulations to others. Few believed me, others blamed my prior use of marijuana or insinuated the use of stronger drugs, while others labeled me as an insane person. Most of these same people, however, pray daily to an invisible entity. Think about this, they pray, at the same time believing that over seven billion people have the same ability to pray to an

invisible entity that can hear their prayers, and then, this same entity has the ability to influence what will happen in their lives, as well as the lives of billions of others. I am sure you can understand why I do not find walking on water impossible for God to me now if one chooses to believe in an entity of such sort.

Christianity has many faults when looking at the religion through a world view, but the other religions share the same problem in that they are not without flaw either. I am more knowledgeable in Christianity than I am the other religions, although I do know enough about the other religions in order to support my beliefs. I am in no way a scholar concerning Christianity or any other religion, nor do I pretend that I am. I do know the information I am providing you is true without fault. I admit when I am unsure about something, and if necessary, can support and prove all my statements and arguments are valid.

So, you see, I am uncertain if my beliefs are the correct beliefs, even though I do know God exists. With what is at risk, for what many humans may consider very extreme for minor offenses, this is a major influence in my decision to not have children. To me, with my unfaltering belief in God, there is nothing more important than my soul and eternal destiny. I may very well face the worst possible ramifications for my actions on this earth, or I may be wrong concerning my beliefs about God. With that being said, I would never risk your eternal happiness, when I am unsure about mine, nor being sure about the religions that have been set in place. The way I see the world concerning religion, the world is set up in favor of the opposition, and the consequences far outweigh what is to be gained if successful in one's journey. I have never been to

heaven, I have never seen heaven, and I am not sure what heaven consists of. I am sure God knows what he is doing and heaven is most likely amazing, but from my viewpoint, you not being born, is better to me, and for me, than being born into an extremely sinful world, and even having the slightest chance of ending up in hell for eternity. Not to mention, those who actually and truly practice a faith are often times treated as outcasts by the world. Furthermore, as stated before, you may not even be practicing the correct religion, and said religion may influence you to conduct yourself in a manner that winds up making you look like a complete fool. Ultimately, there are billions of people walking this earth practicing a religion that is false, and this fact is easily observable. This is not a risk I am willing to make for my child.

Chapter Three

The Problem with Finding you a Mother

Currently, I am single, hold a position at a job that is, in my opinion, not that fulfilling or worthwhile; and still living with your Grandmother. I am not completely broke, as I have some money saved, but I definitely am not where I would like to be. Me and your Grandfather are not seeing eye to eye at the moment, which explains me being abruptly unemployed for a short period of time and having to pursue at a job and due to unforeseen circumstances and helping a friend in need, ending up with a position that is less than worthwhile. I have recently obtained Associates Degrees in several different fields of study, and have been attending the University of Riverside, California in hopes of completing my Bachelors. I am thirty years old now, and am highly disappointed in myself, as well as not being very proud of my accomplishments in life; even though I have faced many unexpected impediments. I expect much more from myself, as I am sure I would expect from you. All these facts lead me to another one of the many reasons this world will never be graced with your beautiful being. That reason being that in order to create your special soul, your father would need to find a partner that is just as special as you would be.

Your Grandfather and Grandmother separated when I was around the age of five, and I was not afforded the benefit of having a father figure present in the household growing up. Neither were most, if not all of my friends while growing up. This is something I feel very strongly about. A child who has no say in being brought into this corrupted world for a lifetime, should at the minimum, have two responsible parents that are willing to devote the entirety of their lifetime together, in order to raise said child for the purpose of providing the best possible guidance, nurturance, and

mental stability possible for their offspring. The sad reality in today's world is that divorce has become the norm, along with heinous acts such as adultery and infidelity. Moreover, many children are being born today without their parents even being in a committed relationship, in addition to the fact that their parents are not financially stable in order to provide and care for their progeny. How two people are willing to make a lifetime commitment without being willing to make a lifetime commitment with each other is beyond me. Women are more promiscuous than ever before, and many men live by a set of double standards that deems them "cool" or "manly" if they commit acts that the opposite gender would be looked severely down upon for if committed.

With that being said, I have yet to come across a woman that fits the bill in all aspects, as far as my wants and needs when concerning the opposite sex. The way I see the situation, if I am going to devote the totality of my remaining lifetime to a partner on this earth in ways such as loyalty, love, and affection, through sickness and health, then I have every right to be selective and fastidious when choosing a partner. I am not perfect, nor is anyone walking this earth presently, and I do not expect your mother to be without character flaws. Physical beauty is not the end all be all, but I do, without a doubt, care about appearance. Being completely honest, I believe that all humans are beautiful the way they are born, as long as they take care of their bodies and lead a healthy lifestyle. Even though I believe what I just stated whole-heartedly, every woman walking this earth is not my type per-say, and I cannot really explain why. If I am not physically attracted to a person, then I cannot see myself being able to wake up

to that person for most of the mornings of the remainder of my lifetime. I just find certain women to be better suited to fit my personal likings than others when concerning aesthetics. Meanwhile, other men may find the women I find partner-worthy not suited to their aesthetic needs, and vice versa. I guess this is where the common saying, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" is derived from.

What is more important beyond physical appearance though, is a person's moral character. As stated before, women are more promiscuous than ever before, and my personal opinion is that this is mainly due to the influence of society. Society has an extremely strong influence over many people's lives, one which I will discuss later in this letter. We live in a world where it is normal to lie and be dishonest, when in reality there is no reason to conduct one's self in such a manner. To me, dishonesty is the byproduct of a person who wants to be something that they are truly not. We also live in a world where money is the major driving factor for most people's motives and actions. Aside from money, another very large factor for people's behavior is attention. These two factors are responsible for many of the corrupt and immoral practices that have been carried out throughout the world. I admit that my past is not highly respectable in all cases, but I am aware of that and have come to the realization that I have no choice but to accept my mistakes and make the necessary changes in order to live the remainder of my lifetime in a way that I find acceptable, as well as respectable.

I have always had an infatuation with the opposite sex, and when I was younger, many girls shared a mutual infatuation with me. This combined with the absence of a father-figure, derogatory rap lyrics, the promotion of fornication through media,



homosexual occurrences in my youth, and many female's foolishness, led to me to be somewhat reluctant about committed relationships with the opposite sex. I found myself strengthening my mistrust in the female gender by often times playing childish games concerning their friends and relatives (sometimes as close as sisters), just to see the limits of the fairer sex. Many females are willing to ruin lifetime relationships behind a male, and the same holds true when the roles are reversed. In reality, as I grew older, I have come to the realization that I was in the wrong as well, as many of those girls also grew up without fathers, mothers, or the proper guidance and nurturance. From my experience, the best maneuver possible is to avoid people who conduct themselves in such manner, and to separate yourself from their way of life if you are not trying to assist them in becoming a better person. This is something I wish I would have learned earlier in my lifetime.

The power of lying in this world is blatant, and extremely obvious. Women are taught to lie about such things as their number of sexual partners, in order to prevent being looked at negatively by society. Lying makes finding a lifetime partner extremely difficult. In my opinion, if a man or woman does not want you for exactly who you are, or what you are, past and all, then why would you want to be with that person in the first place? The correct answer to this question is you should not. However, an optional answer to this question, which to me is not respectable at all, but is the reality of the situation is financial security. Many people are pursuing relationships nowadays for the sole purpose of obtaining a person who can provide them with the necessary funding to live a lifestyle that they find suitable to their needs. I do not approve of this, and once

again, I feel as if you cannot be honest with a person, then pursuing a relationship with said person is a mistake; one that can end up ruining a large portion of a person's lifetime. This thought process is something that has provided me the courage to at least try and find a good woman in this world, because for a while I admit, I had given up, and I was, dare to admit the fact, timid about getting my heart broken. Today though, the way I look at it, how can somebody who I do not even know, who lied about who they are, who is not even true to themselves, hurt me as a person? The answer is they cannot. There is no reason to feel down because someone else is insecure about themselves or is a fraudulent being. This is their flaw, not mine, nor would it be yours.

Furthermore, at the moment, as I stated, I am unable to provide in the manner that I desire to, due to unforeseen events. True love, by my definition, is not concerned with money, but in this world, money is necessary to survive, unless you are willing to live like primitive humans, which is not very appealing. I have no problem with my wife making more money than me, but I do have a problem with not being able to provide for myself, as well as contribute to the well being of the relationship. The mansions, the Italian sports cars, the fancy clothes, and the fine jewelry are not my motivation in this life. Nevertheless, capital is necessary though, because money allows a couple to eat healthy, and at the same time, desirably. Currency also allows a couple free time to enjoy each others company and experience life, while at the same time providing a place of shelter and comfort. So, without me having a steady income that I consider reasonable, I often times do not enjoy pursuing new relationships, even though I know in the long run finding someone who was willing to be with me while I

was still progressing is more beneficial to the relationship. With the help of a committed partner, who would be a teammate in this life, surviving and getting by becomes a simpler task. The only issue is, just surviving and getting by, to me, is not a desirable life, although I am well aware of the millions of people around the globe that would literally die for the opportunity to survive and get by. Lastly, I would like to treat my partner as if she is the only woman in the world, and in order to do that in the manner which I would like, I need to achieve financial freedom.

There is also the issue of finding what I am looking for, along with that woman having the same mutual feelings towards I. Obviously, the girl of my dreams would have no other love interests other than me, because if that were the case, said woman would not be the woman of my dreams. With my criteria, and the current state of the world, my options with regards to a woman seem to be very minute. Not only am I very selective concerning appearance, but she also has to have the same mindset pertaining to my outlook on life, which seems to be fairly rare in today's world. I feel that I am fair with respect to one's past, because I am aware that in order to be honest, a woman would have to accept me for certain things that are highly looked down upon in today's society. Therefore, for me to be unwilling to accept someone for something that they feel shameful about in their past and have truly deterred from, would be nothing less than unjust. Still, there is not an abundance of women who are willing to be completely honest. Furthermore, I do not pursue relationships with women that have children already. Most women my age have children, and many have since separated from their husbands or significant others. I feel for a particular type of woman in this

situation, because sometimes situations occur, and the fault not always lays in the mother's actions; for example, your Grandmother. However, I am not inclined to raise another man's child, and often times, there are drawbacks that accompany being with the mother of another man's child. I do not like drama, nor do I entertain drama, which most of the time accompanies relationships of that nature. There is also the dynamic of taking the role of stepfather, which entails a host of complexities.

Moreover, many women do not have the same monogamous outlook on life that I have; open relationships and polygamy are becoming more popular by the day, and an abundance of women partake in infidelity regularly. Although there are several cultures that view polygamy as the correct way to conduct one's self, I would never, whether male or female, support a lifestyle of this manner. For one, self respect is of the utmost importance to me. In my opinion, allowing your partner to have several partners is a lack of self respect. No matter how you try to look at it, at least one partner would be favored more than another partner, and to be content with being in a relationship in which you are less favored is a sign of lack of self respect to me. Secondly, love to me, does not entail sharing your partner. Emotions are real, and I cannot understand how people could be accepting of their partner engaging in acts of affection with another person. Everybody is different, but this is something I just will not be able to understand. For these reasons I will never partake in polygamy or engage in infidelity concerning my partners, I would rather just remain single if I choose to live a lifestyle of such nature.

Lastly, there is the matter of time. The thing about life is that just because a person feels or acts a certain way at one point in time, does not guarantee that this person will feel the same way in ten, twenty, or thirty years down the line. People grow, and when people grow, some become more mature, and some grow immature. Some become wiser, and some become foolish. Some people lose the feelings that they once had for that special somebody, and others develop feelings for a new person that has entered into their life. Although my mentality would never allow me to desert a person who I dedicated my life to, there is no guarantee that the woman I chose to partake in this lifetime journey with would be just as dedicated. In no way, shape, or form, does bringing you into a world when part of your happiness is dependent upon another individual who is imperfect, this is including myself, seem just to me. Children who grow up without both parents present regularly have issues, and oftentimes become part of a world that is hypocritical and illogical. Many of those children who have grown to adulthood act like the absence of one, or in some cases both parents, has not tainted their lives, but their actions and mentalities say otherwise. For me, as an adolescent, as well as many others that I have spoken with or have heard their stories, many nights are filled with dejection and unhappiness, constantly wondering why life is unfair, and puzzled about why the other parent is not present. I do not gamble much, if at all, unless I feel that I have highly favorable odds. With all the unpredictable hurdles that life has to offer, combined with the current state of the world, I feel that bringing you into this world is a risk in which the odds are favored highly against us.

Chapter Four  
The Faults Within Our Borders

America. My relationship and views on the United States of America is an extreme love and hate relationship. I love this country for the unrealized potential, but I hate this country for the blatant hypocrisy and the injustices that occur on a regular basis. This country was formed on the basis of discrimination and racism. For years, people of color were looked down upon as less than human, and even though the Constitution of the United States of America now recognizes those same people as equal humans, sadly, in many instances the same mentality of superiority based on the concocted construct of race is still present throughout the nation. I could not even fathom the distress and grief that I would feel if you fell victim to America the same way Trayvon Martin, Sean Bell, Stephon Clark, or Zachary Hammond fell victim to the nation; just to name a select few amongst a host of a multitude of others. The same people that have been appointed the career of protecting and serving the citizens of this nation, are the same people who have been caught on tape openly stating, "remember, we only kill black people."<sup>3</sup> For over two centuries this nation was without a president that did not fit the mold of a European descendant. Many of these forty-three presidents were admitted racists, and many of them even owned another person as their own personal private property. As you could probably guess, those that were owned were of color, and predominantly of African descent. Today some of these slave owners are held in high regard, their faces being placed on our legal tender that we spend and see daily, while others have had statues erected in their honor. Many of these presidents died without acknowledging that there was anything wrong with treating another human being as a lesser creature, yet most people overlook this fact and instead

congratulate them on what a great job they did for the country. From me to you, most of what they did is not that impressive, at least in my opinion. I admit, they put into place some great ideas, and helped formulate a constantly improving system that has great potential, but many of them did not do what seems to me to be the simplest and most basic duty of a human, protecting the human rights of others. The incapability to realize that human beings, regardless of skin color, are deserving of just treatment to me is beyond ludicrous. For this reason, there is not much respect to be had. Again, I am speaking from my perspective, and many would elect to disagree.

Even after Barack Obama gained the title of President of the United States, a man that I have much admiration for, not because he became the Chief Executive, but because of his accomplishments as a man of color in a nation where sometimes finding a regular, decent-wage paying job as a colored man is often difficult in itself; the presence of racism and discrimination became more pronounced and noticeable than ever before. Not only was he slandered with many attempts to assassinate his character, the widespread cowards also actively tried to defame his beautiful wife and children. A large population of the nation constantly tried to ostracize the leader of the nation due to him having a different skin tone. I will address what impact melanin would have on your skin in this world later, but my point as of right now is that we live in a nation that is everything and anything but great.

Speaking of great, our current President of the United States, who once again fits the mold of a European descendant, ran a campaign with the slogan "Make America Great Again." My initial thought was, "when has this nation ever been great?" Maybe it



was when colored people were unable to vote and were classified as three fifths of a person when determining the number of United States Representatives based on population.<sup>4</sup> Or maybe it was when the Japanese citizens of the country were thrown into internment camps.<sup>5</sup> Then again, the nation might have been deemed “great” when women were not allowed to vote. Oh, I know, the nation was greatest when America was invading foreign lands due to the abundance of oil, well not just oil, but ideologies and ulterior motives, and destroying communities and families by way of death and creating uninhabitable living conditions. I am referring to the invasion of Iraq, in which the United States made a statement about the invasion in which they deemed their intent to remove, “regime that developed and used weapons of mass destruction, that harbored and supported terrorists, committed outrageous human rights abuses, and defied the just demands of the United Nations and the world.”<sup>6</sup> However, Colin Powell, former United States Secretary of State during the time of invasion, has since admitted that the decision was based on flawed and incorrect intelligence. The effects of the decision to invade foreign soil are still prevalent and consequential today. As you can probably decipher, obviously I am being sarcastic about the nation being great. I never understood the slogan, but I guess the supporters that recently triumphed through the streets of America parading Nazi flags and Confederate flags do understand the meaning behind this slogan; even though the United States of America sought to end the havoc that the Axis powers who paraded that same flag were causing during the late nineteen thirties and early nineteen forties. Continuously, I am irritated by people who classify something as great, with the sole basis being a comparison between

something that is worse off; that is not is great, that is better than something that is subpar.

I am not a fan of politics, and for the most part, I feel that politics are just a game; a game that mostly immature adults enjoy playing, or other responsible adults play in order to try and bring forth change. Often times, the real matter at hand is put aside, or more often compromised, in order to fulfill particular agendas. In order to “win” this game, they occasionally spend hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions, in order to slander and discredit opposing parties. This is in addition to sacrificing moral integrity for social acceptance. All the while, millions of Americans face issues of hunger, tenants of public housing face harsh conditions such as no heating in the winter, and towns such as Flint, Michigan have been without clean water for over three years now. The Flint, Michigan debacle began all because politicians tried to make a cost saving decision for a struggling city in a nation renowned as the “greatest,” with a reputation of a thriving economy. The safety of civilians and the allocation of basic necessities should never be compromised for the sake of saving money, at least from my perspective.

There are two distinct parties involved within politics, the Democrats and the Republicans, I myself am neither. I do not understand the concept of creating division from the onset, when in reality, we should all be working together, and the most advantageous and logical idea should be chosen regardless of what party the idea came from. Creating division from the onset, to me, is detrimental to the well-being of the nation. There are several parties that are separate from the main two, but a candidate

from these lesser prominent parties has little to no chance of winning an election without joining forces with one of the major parties, regardless of how well suited the person is for any particular position. This is a major caveat in the game of politics.

The policies and customs that are set in place by this nation have their advantages, but also exemplify major drawbacks. We live in a capitalistic society, one that is highly motivated by the achievement of profit. This mentality clouds citizens minds and has ultimately propelled America into a state of greed and selfishness. Regularly, acts that if were conducted outside of a business setting would be considered contemptible occur in which the disadvantaged and uninformed are the victims. Constantly, commercials appear on the television screen advising people to telephone in if they have taken a drug in the past and have developed a type of life-threatening condition or sickness as a byproduct of said medication. America is a place where drugs such as marijuana and cocaine are predominantly illegal, yet cigarettes are a multibillion-dollar business annually. Cigarettes offer not one single health benefit. In fact, they do the opposite, and studies show that they slowly kill a human being. Yet, this commodity continues to fill and line aisles within almost every major American retailer. In a like manner, there is currently an opioid epidemic taking place throughout the country in which pharmaceutical companies are responsible for over distribution of opioids throughout the nation. This distribution of prescription pharmaceuticals has resulted in a copious amount of drug overdoses and deaths. To me, there is not much difference between a drug dealer and companies such as Johnson & Johnson who have been charged with playing down the dangers and over distributing these copious

amounts of prescription drugs to predominantly smaller, rural communities. A judge recently ruled against Johnson & Johnson, in the first ever trial of a drug manufacturer for the damages done to a community.<sup>7</sup>

In other countries such as Canada or England, health care is provided by the government. Although not perfect in such countries, the necessities are covered. In America, natural life occurrences such as giving birth to a child consistently put parents in a bad financial position due to the price of procedure. Although I feel that adults should not be bearing children until they themselves are financially stable, mistakes and unforeseen circumstances do occur. My point is that medical services for a citizen should be at the minimum reasonable and affordable, not something that can be price gouged when beneficial, rather something that is set in place for the betterment of the nation. Many citizens within this country are forced to sacrifice their health or prolong necessary procedures in order not to be overcome with financial instability.

Comparably, in countries such as Germany and Norway, a college education costs a minimal amount of money, if not being completely free. In America, students regularly go into debt that they pay off over the course of many years, in order to receive a degree to generate more income and wealth for the country. Education is a driving factor for the future generation of wealth and capital. I feel that a country should invest into their citizens by providing education to anybody who is willing to further their attainment of knowledge at a free or minimal cost. This to me would not only generate more income and stability for the country's economy, but also provide an avenue for the less fortunate to escape their troubles and pursue a better life with the

guarantee that their objective is not only obtainable, but also readily accessible. If a child wants to be a doctor, let a child be a doctor; if successful he will most likely produce more for the country by way of taxes and expenditures than the cost of tuition could ever. The opposite holds true in the nation, and something seems off about the fact that there is an abundance of college athletes who generate billions of dollars of revenue for their respective schools, yet have complaints that they sometimes are forced to go to sleep hungry due to financial issues. In other countries such as Finland, which has one of the best, if not the best education system in the world, children have more leisure time, and have provenly perform better academically than most children in the United States.<sup>8</sup> In addition, there are no private institutions of education, every school is publicly funded. Here in America, wealth buys a person's child a better education accompanied with better resources and educators, where their children are separated from the poorer, less privileged children. In return, a division is created in which the schools in the low-income areas tend to be inferior in all aspects, which leaves most students with a less than adequate education and consequently, less prepared for corporate America; and America as a whole for that matter.

On the matter of schools, in the year two-thousand and eighteen alone, over the course of forty-three days, eighteen schools experienced the discharge of weapons; either in the form mass school shootings, suicides, accidental gunfire, or gunfire that resulted in no injuries. Mass school shootings regularly occur in America, and much more frequently than in any other developed country. No effective measures have been taken in order to properly address these issues, and sadly, another mass school

shooting with probably occur within the time span of a year. There is already something odd about sending your child to a place in which you have to put trust in complete strangers for their well-being, and these instances make achieving that task that much harder.

Gun control issues are more prevalent in this country than ever before, and no one seems to have a solution that would suffice in fixing the problem at hand. Just recently, a student led protest called the "March for Our Lives," took place in Washington D.C. The march consisted of up to two million protesters who flooded the streets in advocacy of gun control. The second amendment of the United States Constitution states that, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."<sup>9</sup> The original purpose for this amendment was to provide citizens the ability to fight back if an oppressive government presented itself in a time when America was still transitioning from a period in which they just separated from the English, and the future of the nation was still uncertain. Today, the amendment is interpreted in many different ways, and many utilize this as a defense to retain their personal firearms, which I personally do not see as an accurate interpretation. With the furtherance of technological advances, I do not understand why funding has not been provided to develop a new, non-lethal weapon that is highly effective concerning self-defense or policing habits. This is beyond my pay grade, but I am one-hundred percent certain that this objective is achievable and realistic.

Reverting back to the school system, another issue that I see within the schooling system is the pace in which the often times misleading curriculum is taught to students. Frequently college students take prescription drugs in order to help them focus and complete their workload. Furthermore, some colleges offer courses during a shortened and condensed winter or summer semester in a manner in which information is extremely difficult to retain. Students frequently are memorizing the material in order to pass tests to obtain a letter grade rather than learning the material in a manner that will benefit them in the long run. I have witnessed a number of students who actually apply themselves pertaining to their schooling, who have no trouble with a full-time workload, but the majority of my peers that I have conversed with about school are only remembering the information long enough to obtain a satisfactory mark in the class.

The curriculum itself, in my opinion of course, needs to be revised in order to not only be more truthful, but also to include subjects that will be more beneficial to the everyday American's life. Although my high school attendance was less than satisfactory, even to the extent of me being kicked out of one of my high schools for my absenteeism, I still was well aware of what was being taught within each institution. One of my high schools seemed to be more concerned with the welfare of students, but I feel that courses on the country's taxation policies, medical policies, insurance policies, investment opportunities, how to start a business, government grant and aid programs, and courses of such nature should be mandatory for every high school student in order to better prepare them for the everyday American life. Consequently, what is good for

the American, is also good for the well-being of the country. The truth is, the majority of high school graduates do not remember much of what was taught to them during their high school tenure as a lot of the curriculum is not utilized later in life. Subjects such as these, however, are constantly reiterated throughout one's life, and therefore I feel that more of an emphasis should be placed upon them.

Policing issues are prevalent as well within the country's borders. According to The Guardian, which operates their own database named The Counted, in the two years, two-thousand and fifteen and two-thousand and sixteen, two-thousand, two-hundred and thirty-nine people were killed by police officers or other law enforcement agencies.<sup>10</sup> Countries such as the Bahamas have in recent times issued travel warnings for people of color visiting the United States of America due to the abundance of police killings involving minorities that have taken place throughout the country. Having the title as a law enforcement officer, from my viewpoint, is no easy task; as their lives are regularly subjected to life threatening ordeals. With that being said, many officers first instinct is survival, and oftentimes find themselves in situations where they feel as if deadly force should be utilized. Factor this in with the fact that many of these officers are either prejudiced or racist, and many more are nothing more than regular human beings with a high-school degree and no college education, you can see why so many civilians are regularly the subjects of law enforcement killings.

In the past, relations between the police and civilians were even worse than they are in modern day society. From my perspective, the situation has improved because of several factors. One of those factors being that times are changing, and humans are



becoming more accepting of others who do not necessarily look the same as themselves. But a more pronounced factor is the advancement of technology. In the past, crimes were easier to get away with, law enforcement was essentially an untouchable organization that was free to do whatever they wished with minimal consequences as long as they were clever enough about their lawless acts. Today though, almost every civilian is equipped with a miniature video camera that is capturing every movement which forces wrongdoings to be justified at a higher rate. From my limited knowledge, most people reassess their inclinations when a higher power is watching.

Aligned one with the next, the American jail system is something that is shameful and disgraceful. The purpose of imprisonment is supposed to rehabilitate or deter one from making the same mistakes that left them incarcerated. However, on the topic of recidivism, according to a report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over a five year period relating to state prisoners in thirty states, about sixty-eight percent of prisoners were re-arrested for a new crime within three years and about seventy-seven percent were re-arrested within five years.<sup>11</sup> Figures and statistics such as these show that our prison system is highly ineffective and in need of some type of reformation. Furthermore, life as a prisoner oftentimes subjects many to circumstances in which their mental condition is altered in a detrimental way. On June 6, 2015 a child by the name of Kalief Browder hung himself outside of a window of his mother's home after doing a stint at Rikers Island, a notoriously famous New York prison facility, for a crime he was never convicted of. During his incarceration, Browder was subject to inhumane

conditions by not only other inmates, but by guards at the prison facility as well; which observably had something to do with his decision to end his own life.

Segregation in jails is reminiscent of colonial-era America. I say this because most are forced to choose a race in which they identify with and abide by the rules set in place by said race within the imprisonment facility. If one does not adhere to these rules, or decides that these customs are pure stupidity, which they are, one will be faced with an uphill task of trying to survive in a place in which the odds are set against you. I have witnessed, and also have read several stories in which guards purposely integrate members of different gangs or races into sections of the imprisonment facility inhabited by rivals in order to cause depredation, sometimes for their viewing pleasure. Recently, my favorite hip-hop artist, which I as adult have mixed emotions about now but that is a story for another day, Shawn Carter, better known by his stage name Jay Z, filed a lawsuit against the Mississippi Department of Corrections on behalf of around thirty prisoners with claims that the inmates are subject to uninhabitable and unconstitutional living conditions in which five prisoners have lost their lives in the time span of five weeks<sup>12</sup>. Occurrences such as this regularly happen, and to me, this is beyond shameful of a nation that has all the available resources, intelligent beings, and technological advances that this nation has.

The policing system and imprisonment are in desperate need of an overhaul. I am no expert on the matter, nor have I dedicated myself to a plan that would suffice and be a solution to the issue, but the necessity is glaring. One stratagem that I have given thought to, which I think would be highly effective in all communities, is the

presence of law enforcement outposts in each and every community. As I stated, I have not taken into account figures, costs, personnel, and factors as such, but I do know that having enforcement agents who are regularly on patrol whether it be foot or some other technological advancement (segways etc.) would drastically reduce the crimes in each neighborhood, as well as improving relations between law enforcement and civilians. Coming from where I come from, most are taught not to trust law enforcement because they are viewed as the enemy. Not only this, but also because they cannot be trusted to be there for you in times of need. If there was regularly a presence in each community twenty-four hours a day, one that interacts and is accessible on a daily basis, not only would they know what is going on in each neighborhood, children, as well as adults would be more willing to ask for assistance as they would be there on a consistent basis. As I said, this is just an idea, but one that I feel strongly about, and I feel could work in an extremely beneficial manner for our society as long as the system is monitored and not taken advantage of by those in positions that are able.

The entertainment industry is also a major concern for me. America is infatuated with the "bad guy" or the "bad ass." Historical figures such as Al Capone, a notorious mobster that controlled the Chicago territory in the mid-twenties to the early thirties, and Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, a Mexican cartel kingpin, are a few amongst a host of many other crime lords who are celebrated in America. Everything from documentaries, multi-million-dollar entertainment series and motion pictures based on their lives, nightlife establishments, to food and drink items being named after figures as such are just a few factors used to generate revenue for millions across the globe.

Meanwhile the truth about such figures is much darker and grimmer than one could imagine. For instance, I have no respect for Joaquin Guzman, at all. Just me making that statement could probably put my life in danger, but I do not fear at all for stating facts, and while living in the United States of America, I am probably fine. I am sure his upbringing played a factor in his choice of a life of crime, and I understand a person who makes these decisions in a situation in which they feel they have no other avenues or means to escape their living conditions; but in no way, shape, or form does this justify actions such as purchasing adolescent girls at a minimal price, forcing these young women to perform sexual acts, and then referring to female children as “vitamins.”<sup>13</sup> This is my reasoning for not having respect for this man, not because he made a living selling a substance that is viewed by some as negative, but because he, as an adult, forced children into something they had no choice about. Many people ignore facts such as these because either they are scared of the power that drug lords as such possess, while others are blinded by the copious amounts of money that is generated by persons like these. Countless numbers of lives that have no involvement in the underworld’s ordeals are ruined by people such as Pablo Escobar, whether directly or indirectly, yet these figures are celebrated in the same manner as someone who has contributed something great for the betterment of the world.

Music today is something that also bothers me. I made a reference to my favorite rapper of all time earlier, in which I stated I have mixed emotions about him now that I have come to adulthood. His music had a major influence in my life, and only as an adult did I come to the realization, a good amount of that influence was negative. I am

not from the worst neighborhood, but I am not from the best walk of life either, so I understand that his influence on my life is not the same influence that is imposed on others life. Yet the fact that he has a worldwide audience of millions and maybe even billions, with a large portion of that audience being in stages of life where they are still finding themselves, I have come to listen to music different, as a lot of musicians are adolescents' idols and or role models, whether they choose to adhere to that role or not. Of course, not all music is harmful, there are plenty of songs from every genre that are uplifting and constructive, but a plentitude of music is influential in the wrong manner, and without the proper guidance and upbringing, music can be very detrimental to one's well-being.

Of course, not all of the blame can be attributed to music as there are many other factors that come into play, but the influence of music on society, and especially in my case, urban society, is readily apparent. For instance, there is a drink referred to as "lean," which is a mixture of prescription cough syrup and soda that is widespread throughout the nation. Before music, many, especially in the south were users of the drug concoction, but as music became more pronounced, especially with the utilization of the internet, this trend has spread nationwide, and even globally. I am one-hundred percent certain that this movement would not be as widespread without the influence of music. Music influences the way we dress, what we deem as cool, where people want to travel, how we talk, and how we treat each other, among many other aspects; and oftentimes these influences are not positive.

Moving on, I am even concerned about the necessities of life pertaining to the United States of America. I am not even sure at this point in my life, that living a healthy lifestyle by means of a healthy diet is advantageous for a person in the long run. Do not misunderstand me, fruits, vegetables, and a well-balanced diet offer vitamins and nutrients that one cannot obtain by eating in a substandard way; but the nation is consistently revealing that modern farming practices and techniques may be the cause of health ailments throughout the country. Furthermore, these techniques are the cause of the ruins of available soil and depletion of water resources. For instance, pesticides, which are fertilizers and plant protection products combined, are used to combat the ruination of crops by pests. These pesticides, however, have been associated with “endocrine disruption and oxidative stress level elevation.”<sup>14</sup> These two issues can have lasting and serious health effects on a human. There are many other byproducts of modern farming techniques that are being researched that affect the way the human body functions, which is a major concern for the nation, as the availability of cropland and drinkable water is finite, and feeding millions is necessary.

Aligned one with the next, the impacts of climate change, an outdated water infrastructure, the increase of populations in predominantly barren lands within the United States, and economic growth all pose a threat to the sustainability of the nation’s freshwater supply<sup>15</sup>. Not only are the practices and techniques of cultivating mass quantities of food resources potentially detrimental, human processes such as fracking are contaminating water resources throughout the nation. Fracking is the process of drilling down into the earth before a high-pressure water mixture is directed at the rock

to release the gas inside. I remember watching several videos that were circulating throughout the internet of instances in which the inhabitants of areas that had been subjected to the fracking process were literally putting a flame to the water dispensed out of their tap, and watching the water actually combust. The fact that living in one of the world's most developed nations, and still having a concern over a bare necessity, that being water, is more than troubling to me. In the same manner, a recent study has deemed that the United States of America's contamination of drinking water is worse than experts had previously thought. Chemicals known as PFAS, or perfluoroalkyl substances, which are substances that are resistant to being broken down, have been found in every single site that was tested, except for Meridian, Mississippi, which relied on seven-hundred-foot-deep wells as their means of water. Out of the forty-four sites throughout thirty-one states, only two had levels below one part per trillion, which is the recommended limit by the Environmental Working Group.<sup>16</sup> The reason this is so frightening is because PFAS have been linked to cancers, as well as a host of other health problems.

Directly related to food and water sources, obesity is a serious issue in this country, and the numerous readily available options of fast, unhealthy, and cheap food seems to assist the persistence and growth of the matter. Obesity, characterized as being overweight, pertaining to adults, was a little over forty-two percent in the year two-thousand and seventeen and eighteen. That same statistic from the time period of nineteen ninety-nine to two thousand was only a little over thirty percent, displaying a startling negative trend. Over that same duration of time, the prevalence of severe

obesity increased from nearly five percent to almost ten percent.<sup>17</sup> More troubling, pertaining to children over that same duration, the prevalence of obesity was eighteen and a half percent and affected almost fourteen million children and adolescents.<sup>18</sup> A healthy, balanced, nutritious diet not only wards off disease and sickness, but also enables humans to feel and think better. These numbers display that the nation has become less concerned with the well-being of the inhabitants, and more concerned with the generation of revenue.

I could probably ramble on for several more pages of all the problems and issues that we as humans are facing within the United States of America, but problems and issues without solutions are futile. I am sure no nation is perfect, but as a nation that boasts about being so powerful and influential, some of these statistics and facts are disheartening. These figures and realities also display the hypocrisy of the nation. Another exemplification of these hypocrisies is the ever-changing laws and mandates. These are just a few of the many reasons why me being your parent will never come to fruition during my duration on this troublesome planet.



Chapter Five

Cold World

The world. As bad as America may sound, most other places around the globe are even worse. Children facing extreme famine die regularly from starvation. Other children have no means to an education, and more importantly, no means to a wholesome life because their country is involved in a constant war. All the while, other children face the issue of being kidnapped and used as a sex slave by twisted and demented human beings. Many parts of the world are less advanced than the United States, and in some instances are faced with unbelievable troublesome issues such as not being granted the privilege to accessible drinking water. The world has been in a state of disarray since the earliest records of the earth. The constant war, famine, disease, poverty, and slavery, amongst a host of other issues have persisted since some of the earliest records of civilization.

I oftentimes become irate at the fact that most human beings only feel sympathy or empathy for those directly connected to them, or have relations to them. When a school shooting occurs in the United States of America, many times you can witness the tears of a wide range of people. Not that I do not care or feel saddened by the horrendous acts, but usually, on any given day, I read news about a new bombing or airstrike that has occurred in a foreign part of the world. Most people that shed tears about a school shooting in the same or different state, do not even acknowledge the children that are suffering abroad. My inner cognitions lead me to believe that this is because the imaginary lines that have been created which divide us as humans, as well as the fact that the news is closer to home and may directly impact one of their lives at some point. Nevertheless, instances such as these exemplify the disconnect between

humans based on their geographic locations. I wonder what state the world would be in, if all humans worked together and considered the human race one, instead of division based on geographic location, religion, or some other determinant factor. Of course, this could be extremely atrocious for humans if the wrong collective of people were to gain that type of power.

As much as the fact troubles me, in the present day, the year of two-thousand and nineteen, humans are still traded as property of other humans throughout the world. In Libya, a small country located on the northern portion of Africa, humans have been recorded being auctioned off for as little as four-hundred dollars under the title of "farm-laborers."<sup>19</sup> Even more unsettling, human sex trafficking is a major issue in the world affecting over twenty-seven million people worldwide.<sup>20</sup> Human trafficking and arms dealing are both tied for the second-largest criminal industry in the world, only behind drug-dealing. Annually, international human trafficking generates over thirty billion dollars. With statistics as such, obviously being abducted, and then forced into human trafficking is a real possibility in today's world and occurs to millions of humans throughout the globe.

War. War is a terrible occurrence that consistently takes place throughout the world in which billions of people are affected. Bloodshed, death, famine, and displaced families are a few of the consequences of war, but war is a concept that has been occurring since some of the earliest records of history. Some countries, such as Israel and Palestine, have been at war for over half a century. War is predominantly a concept that is derived from one person in control of a group of people, or a collective group of

people, who either want something that another collective of people possess, or that believe an injustice has occurred in which they feel confrontation is necessary.

Concurrently, as I write this, President Donald Trump recently authorized a bombing in Iraq in which one of the top officials, Qassem Soleimani, a man who is renowned as the second most powerful person in the country of Iran, was murdered. Iran vowed retaliation against the United States of America, and war seems more than likely in the near future. War does not necessarily have to include different states or countries and their opposing parties engaging in a state of armed conflict, some wars are fought within borders, such as an oppressed group fighting for the right to be treated equal. Considering war, we all lose in war, one side just loses less, there are no winners when civilian death is involved.

Moving forward, I can recall almost being brought to tears when I saw women stand in front of the three most prominent Democratic buildings in the capital of Argentina, Buenos Aires. The women were fully nude and screaming at the top of their lungs were protesting in hopes that their screams would be heard by somebody who cares or somebody who is in power to do something about their situation. Their situation? Femicide in Argentina. Argentina has an abnormally high homicide rate of women by the hands of the male gender. Even after a decade since the passage of the Law of Integral Protection for Women, a law that was intended to eradicate the unequal balance between men and women in Argentina, women in Argentina are still subjected to unfair and unequal treatment in the country. In the first six months of two-thousand and nineteen, a total of one-hundred and fifty-five femicides were recorded in

Argentina.<sup>21</sup> Issues such as these regularly occur throughout the world, which has led to my belief that the world will in one way or another, in every generation, find a new problem that subjects many to inhumane conditions.

As I write this portion of the letter, the independent city of Hong Kong, which is in a peculiar state due to the complexities of the territory's past, is fighting for their freedom. Hong Kong was originally inhabited by locals who were under the regime of Chinese rulers and remained this way until the First Opium War, in which the Qing dynasty surrendered the country to the British empire in eighteen forty-two. The British Empire was now in control of the Hong Kong territory for a total of ninety-nine years. Fast forward to the year two-thousand and seven, Hong Kong was then returned to the rule of the Chinese government who have since been trying to implement basic laws and bills that the citizens of Hong Kong find unjust, and in return, protests and activism have ensued. In June, the year two-thousand and nineteen, Hong Kong tried to implement a controversial bill that would allow extradition from Hong Kong to Chinese provinces. This bill has since been shelved, but the protests have raged on for more than six months, in hopes of bringing attention to the many injustices of the government and Beijing. Throughout the protests, many civilians and police officers have either sustained injuries or lost their lives.

Meanwhile, the nation that Hong Kong feels is the oppressor, that of course being China, is conducting what to me is the closest thing to concentration camps that I have heard of since Adolf Hitler and the holocaust. Recently, reports and testimonies have been coming to light about "re-education" camps in the province of Xinjiang.

These “re-education” camps are predominantly targeting Muslim Uyghurs, a Turkic minority group chiefly from Central and East Asia.<sup>22</sup> For a while, these camps were not acknowledged by those in power, but as of late, admissions of the camp’s existence have been confirmed; stating that the camps are intended to combat extremism and terrorism. Some of those that have either been detained in the camps or have relatives within the camp report of forced labor, torture, starvation, and humiliation; just to name a few amongst a list of many other inconceivable acts.

Not all of the world’s problems are caused by humans, as some catastrophic events are the byproduct of nature. Well then again, humans have treated the world in a manner that may influence some of these events, and also have inhabited portions of the globe that are known to have these reoccurring events, so in this sense humans are to blame in some aspect. Anyways, these natural occurrences such as typhoons, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and floods often times destroy and create chaos for entire cities and states. For example, hurricanes are the culprit of displacement and casualties of many. The worst hurricane in the history of the United States of America was the Galveston Hurricane of nineteen hundred. The hurricane claimed the lives of somewhere around eight thousand civilians, and displaced around ten-thousand people in a city of only thirty-eight thousand.<sup>23</sup> Although humans are not responsible for such natural disasters, except for choosing to inhabit locations that are known for such occurrences; the after effects of what happens is usually where the humans are responsible, or not responsible for that matter. I am perplexed by the notion that in the year two-thousand and twenty, we do not have an efficient and effective natural

disaster relief system set in place that immediately assists all of those involved in such incidents. From my perspective, every time a natural disaster occurs within the country, you can see civilians and celebrities doing the work of what should be achieved by the government; of course, as the reoccurring trend goes, this is just me speaking from my perspective.

The world is what the world is. I feel as if one of a human's responsibilities while inhabiting this earth is to live one's life in a manner that does not result in the decline of other's lives. To be considered a "good" person in my opinion, one would need to go beyond this task, and in fact improve the lives of others, while still not diminishing the lives of others. This may sound like an easy feat, but many times what one considers to be helping or improving the lives of others, is in fact detrimental in the long run of the others. However, as long as the intention is truly good, I do not see how one can fault another for an attempt. Not many are concerned with the betterment of the world though; most are either trying to survive or trying to accomplish their individual objectives that usually only relate directly to them or their family. With the current state of the globe, I just find the thought of conceiving a child illogical and irresponsible, at least for me and the things that I have experienced and been through.

Chapter Six

If Born a Boy



Being a male on this earth is very complicated. Society constantly places expectations on males that are hypocritical, and in many instances, contradictory to the prior expectations that were placed on men. One lesson in life I am sure that I would have taught you, is the lesson of being true to yourself and to never follow the crowd. Me myself, I had immeasurable odds placed against me; that, combined with the absence of a father figure, made the task of becoming a man whom I respect very difficult and troubling to accomplish. You see, I dealt with some homosexual occurrences beginning at the young age of five, or maybe even younger. These occurrences happened with members of my own family; not one time, but a number of times, and with separate people, not just family members. As a young boy with no guidance, this made me a very reserved person from a very young age, and often times, I used to cry out of frustration. I never talked about these issues with anybody, not even your Grandmother; even though in one instance she was informed, but I feel as though she was not equipped with the proper knowledge in order to discipline, nor educate me on the unfortunate event.

Much of society treats homosexuals as rejects, or outcasts. Although I am one-hundred percent certain I am not a homosexual, this fact made these occurrences even worse on me as a person. You see, if you are a homosexual, at least society knows you are a homosexual and you can find your place in society amongst other homosexuals and those that approve of the lifestyle. In my case, with me being a heterosexual male, the worst possible instances that could have occurred were those of the homosexual nature in my past. As I said, at least if you are a homosexual you have a place among

other homosexuals, but if you are a heterosexual male that personally does not agree with the homosexual lifestyle, but has homosexual instances in his past, you are viewed negatively by both sides of the spectrum; especially as a male. I had many issues growing up, and a long period of time passed before I realized that those occurrences in my adolescence do not shape or dictate who I am as an adult. I have never been one to care much for outside opinions, but I have always been one who does not tolerate a certain level of disrespect, and these occurrences provided a gateway for negative people to insult me which is part of the reason I was so reserved and secretive as a child.

Unfortunately, we live in a world where masculinity is a subjective term, yet a term that influences society greatly and controls the thought patterns of not only many men, but also the thought patterns of what many women expect a man to be. In fact, I am sure just by penning this piece of literature to you I will face backlash and judgment from other men and women. Sadly, the world looks down on men who openly express their emotions and feelings. We live in a world where men are considered feminine if they cry to express themselves or are considered weak for being truthful about their emotions. I am aware of this, and although many years passed before I became comfortable being exactly who I am, I no longer have any issue being honest. Most people are so cowardly anyway, they do not even have the courage to openly express their negative opinions unless surrounded by a group of others who feel the same way, or through a means of communication where they can remain anonymous. This is the easiest sign to identifying a coward.

Toxic masculinity is real. As idiotic as some of these views are, they are no doubt very influential in the world. For instance, in America, drinking beer is considered “manly” by most citizens. I admit I do drink an occasional beer, preferably Stella Artois, but truthfully, most other beer is not palatable, and has a repugnant taste; even Stella Artois is not tasty, just less undesirable. I do drink hard liquor, which is also not desirable taste wise, and used primarily for the aftereffects. I also like to drink mixed drinks, such as piña coladas or margaritas because they produce the same aftereffects, but also provide a beverage that is desirable. Oftentimes, my friends make derogatory remarks about me ordering these drinks while eating hot wings, but these remarks are just amusing to me at this point in my life and provide a source of laughter. Steak. Steak is another one of those items that society has dubbed as “manly.” I do enjoy an occasional steak, but rarely, and much prefer a dish consisting of pasta or something of that nature. I once ordered a pasta dish while dining with a group, and one of my close friends remarked, “why do you always order something feminine?” My point is, in this world you can be viewed as not masculine enough for eating meals and drinking drinks that you actually enjoy due to the stereotypes that society has placed on men; especially if you do not fit the stereotypical man mold of two-hundred plus pounds, with a beard, a resume of bar fights, and a love for guns. To me, this is nothing short of buffoonery. I eat what I like, and I drink what I like, when I like, regardless of the consequences. This is because I have no problem with the consequences and what may stem from them.

I have had my fair share of partners in my lifetime, more than a lot of people I know, but much less than many other people I know. As I have addressed, finding a life

partner is hard to do, at least in my experience, but sex is an extremely pleasurable act; one in which I had much less self-control in my younger days, in addition to a lack of guidance and education. Much of society views men that have had relations with all the most desirable women as “manly,” and for the most part those that are virgins, or have a minimal amount of partners as weak or outcasts, besides the point that most of these people pray to a God whose values differ their own. If I were to bring you into this world, this state of society truly is something that bothers me. On one hand, I would desire you to remain pure and abstain from sexual intercourse until marriage, but on the other, I am aware of the realities of being a virgin in today’s world and the societal pressures placed on a child who carries them self in this manner. In addition, I myself have been a growing adolescent male, and know the how some situations can lead to curiosity about experiences with the female gender.

Another prevalent issue in the world today concerning males is the role of a male in society. History has an immense influence on this concept, as most societies in the old ages were founded on patriarchal beliefs. Men have been held to a higher value throughout much of history, as women have been subjected to a lesser role in their respective societies. This fact has persisted throughout history and made an impression on the way society views men and women. Patriarchy, in former times, was more logical as women acquiesced their submissive role in tribes and civilizations to tend to child rearing and nurturance. This meant that men predominantly were allocated to roles of hunting and gathering. These roles, although they are somewhat irrelevant in today’s society due to technological advances and innovations, still persist as societies

have become accustomed to the male taking on positions that deem them the provider of the household. As far as I can tell, this is the main reasoning for men deeming certain acts manly, and other acts not as much. However, all societies throughout history have not submitted to patriarchy, and some, such as the Mosuo of China, practice values of a matriarchal society in which the women are often the head of households, and inheritance and lineage is passed down through the female.

Hopefully you understand how complicated being a male is in today's world. There are many other prejudices and judgements placed on men in the modern world, and I may have forgotten to detail some important facts, but I am sure I have written enough in this passage to help identify the complexities and issues that come with being born with an intromittent organ. I am sure I would try my best to raise an upstanding, respectable gentleman. I am also sure you would more than likely become a person I would be proud of, but with all the nonsense present throughout this planet, my decision to not bear children becomes more reassuring by the day.

Letter Seven

If Born a Girl

From the outside looking in, being a female on this earth is equally, if not, more difficult to navigate than being a male. Society also places inequitable and discriminatory expectations on females, even more so than males. From the onset of history, most civilizations have treated women as the lesser counterpart in comparison to that of males. With the fact being that most civilizations have patriarchal roots embedded in them, and although this is mostly due to genetics and the roles that accompany said genetics such as childbearing and what not, over time those roles have become somewhat obsolete in many cases, but the stigmatization of being a woman still persists.

Disgustingly, statistics show that one in three women face domestic abuse, and one in four women experience rape in their lifetime<sup>24</sup>. If a man were to treat you in this manner, sadly, I would definitely be a part of the one-third of black males incarcerated that I wrote about earlier. These statistics, to me, are mind-boggling. Knowing that if I were to bear a daughter, there is a thirty-three percent chance that her life-partner will abuse her, or worse a twenty-five percent chance that she will be treated as nothing more than a piece of sexual gratification for a short-duration of time makes me furious just thinking about the situation. If my two nieces, who would be your two cousins, were ever subjected to these cowardly acts, I would, without a doubt not be able to control myself. I remember watching a viral video that was circulating through the internet of a woman surrounded by a mob of at least a hundred foreign men all groping and trying to rape a woman. Instances like these occur regularly, and not just in foreign countries, but here in America as well.

The Bible and the Qu'ran, as well as other religious doctrine, have had an immense influence of the way society has been shaped concerning the roles of women. With a large portion of the world claiming to be a part of either the Islamic or Christian religions, there are certain scriptures and passages from each text that have developed into a paradigm in which women's roles have been defined. For instance, contained in the first Corinthians book in the Bible, chapter eleven verse three, there is a verse that states that, "but I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."<sup>25</sup> This verse, along with many others, has dictated the way that Christian households have been maintained throughout a substantial amount of history; deeming the man as superior, and the woman as a lower, more submissive role.

As a person with Christian beliefs, who has studied the Bible, I do feel as if man has a responsibility to provide and lead, but I do not believe that this means that a woman is just a subjective vessel who does not contribute or have a mind of their own. The verse quoted above reiterates my point, but the verse also states that Christ is the head of man, and the teachings of Christ teach one to love, adorn, and treat others with respect. With that being said, to treat a woman as a lesser being is obviously illogical and a fallacy concerning the Christian faith.

In the Qu'ran, the most famous scripture that is the source of confusion and ambiguity is one that is contained within the fourth chapter of the Qu'ran. The verse, contained in chapter four, verse thirty-four is so equivocal, there is no definitive interpretation of the verse causing a debate about the roles of men and women for an



extended period of time. The second half of the verse states, “those [women] whose nushuz you fear, admonish them, and abandon them in bed, and strike them. If they obey you, do not pursue a strategy against them. Indeed, God is Exalted, Great.”<sup>26</sup> This verse has caused a plentitude of controversy due to the verse’s ambiguity which can be interpreted as men having the right to physically harm women, as well as women being subjected to the orders of a man. Passages as such have persisted throughout the world, and the effects of them on our societies is evident as women around the globe are still battling for equality around the globe.

Recently, there has been a movement named the “Me-Too Movement,” in which many women who have been sexually assaulted by men in power throughout the years have come forward and brought the detestable acts to the forefront. America has progressed to a place in which women are garnering more respect, therefore many of these women finally feel comfortable enough to speak, whereas in the past they may have been ridiculed or subjected to harsh treatment due to the Me-Too Movement. I am glad that women finally have the proper respect to get people such as Harvey Weinstein convicted, and I hope in the future such acts will not even be able to be executed by people in high positions.

Being a man, and growing up surrounded by other men, as well as being an adolescent at one point, and being encircled with other growing boys, I was subjected to the actions of other males throughout my growth. I am aware that the company you choose to associate with has a lot to do with what you are exposed to throughout your lifetime, but from what I know about the male gender, the majority of this side of the

gender has a similar mentality concerning females. Most men are not faithful and partake in infidelity; or if they are not in a relationship, treat females as a means to achieve a sexual orgasm and a conversation piece to make themselves look enviable to other males. Me knowing this makes having two beautiful nieces troublesome for me at times, and if I was blessed with a daughter, I know this would also be the case. I am not exempt, and I admit I was worse than a lot of my peers, but eventually I realized I was in the wrong. However, many men never come to this realization and continuously treat women in this manner, so much in fact that women seem to have begun treating men in a like fashion, creating a society in America in which emotionally detached sexual intercourse is normal, as well as lying and using manipulative tactics to achieve one's desires.

A factor that is essentially guaranteed that accompanies being a female in this world is a menstrual cycle. At a certain age, a woman's body begins to prepare itself for pregnancy. Each month, during this preparation, a lining of uterus tissue becomes thicker to prepare for a fertilized egg. If that egg is not fertilized, the body naturally rids itself of the excess tissue by way of a small opening of the cervix, and finally through the vagina as blood. The woman's menstrual cycle, or commonly known as a period, causes physical and emotional discomfort for the majority of women. I have personally witnessed females cry due to the pain and discomfort and have heard many stories about others. From my understanding, for some the monthly occurrence is easygoing, but for others the cycle is nearly unbearable. Aligned one with the next, if a woman does get pregnant, the process of childbirth is relatable to a woman's menstrual cycle.

For some women, the pain is unbearable, and can even lead to death in instances, while others proclaim that their experience was mellow and undemanding.

Either way, these pains are not something that I desire you to have to deal with at any point in your life. Nor do I desire you to have to deal with the pressures that accompany being a female in this world. I may sound like an over-protective father, but I assure you I am not, and this world is no place that I desire any daughter of mine to ever have to be subjected to, let alone witness the atrocities that take place throughout the globe.

Chapter Eight

Your Melanin

As ignorant and dense as it may sound, yes, the amount of melanin in your skin would play a role into how you are viewed and treated throughout this world.

Although over time progress has been made, and statistics say that in several decades those of African descent will eventually catch up with their counterparts of the nation; in the present day, there is much work to improve the conditions of people of color.

African Americans, when compared to their Caucasian counterparts, are poorer, less healthy, less educated, face a wider number of barriers to success when considering the labor market, and last but not least, die at a younger age.

Despite the war on poverty, the countless amount of laws that have been set in place to eradicate racism and prejudice, and the many programs that have been initiated to try and lessen the after-effects of slavery and discrimination, an inequality gap is still prevalent in the United States of America. Coupled with that inequality gap are gaps of all variations, one of them being an economic inequality gap. Research has proven this economic inequality gap exists, stating that the gap between income of African Americans and Whites has been consistent if not widening since the year nineteen-eighty.<sup>27</sup> Research shows that to combat these issues, improving in areas such as financial literacy, investment, and reduction of debt can all play a part in reducing this gap, but like most concepts, the phrase easier said than done is applicable in this instance.

As I have already touched on the policing issues within the nation, these issues are even more prevalent for those of African descent within the country's borders. Out of the more than three-hundred million people living in the United States of America,

approximately fifteen percent are classified as black. Disturbingly, out of the vast numerous fatalities caused by the police, those that classify as black constitute approximately forty percent of those victims<sup>28</sup>. Although particular studies attribute the reasoning behind statistics such as these differently, as a man of color I have witnessed and experienced situations in which some police officers are just simply, flat-out, racist. Disturbingly, when concerning incarceration, those of African descent compose approximately thirty-five percent of jail inmates within the country's borders.

History can help to elaborate on why statistics like these exist within our country. For instance, the thirteenth amendment was set in place to abolish slavery. Common sense would suggest that no single law would free millions of people without backlash, loopholes, and a wide array of other problematic issues. Section one of the thirteenth amendment contained within the United States of America Constitution states that, "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."<sup>29</sup> You should easily be able to identify why this clause would cause issues throughout the world, and if you cannot, a racist would simply search for reasoning to make a person a convicted criminal. In relation, a man named Abraham Lincoln, as a part of your school curriculum, would more than likely be taught as the man who freed the slaves. In actuality, the story behind the emancipation proclamation is much deeper, with ulterior motives and agendas other than just being a humane person who wanted equality for their darker counterparts.

Life for a person of color within the country's borders is so equivocal there has been a need for a recent passing of no discrimination based on hairstyle. The piece of legislation was first passed in California, and denies any employer or school official from discrimination of an individual based on their natural hairstyle.<sup>30</sup> Those of African descent, and more pronounced, women of African descent usually have hair that kinkier and woolier than most other hair styles, and when the hair grows, instead of becoming long, the hair becomes bigger and bushier. For reasons unknown, many women of African descent are insecure about their hair, and therefore oftentimes resort to straightening their hair, or adding extensions in order to feel more confident about themselves.

Every person, as told by science, originated from Africa. How I view this fact, whether that person was as white as the snow that caps the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, or as dark as the night when the sun is more than eighteen degrees below the horizon, we are all the same. For instance, if you were to travel to Jamaica, you would come across people of Asian descent and Caucasian descent, who are born and bred in Jamaica, therefore endowing them with the heavy Jamaican accent, along with the customs of the small Caribbean nation. My point is, the judgement of a person based on their skin color is nothing other than stupidity and ignorance. Race is a man-made construct, one that divides humans from working together in a way that absolutely makes no sense.

Lastly, from my perspective, as a person of color living within the United States of America, trust is something that is lacking from the onset of one's life. As a person of

color, the older you get, and the more knowledge you obtain, the more skeptical and cautious you become, at least speaking from my experience. Part of the issue within the country between those of color and the government is there has always been deceptive and malicious practices that have taken place from the government towards those of color, and often times, those of African descent. Besides the fact that the outlawing of segregation did not occur until nineteen fifty-four, there have been many instances and inhumane occurrences in which the government of the United States inappropriately carried out experiments and injustices against those of color. To name a few, in the year nineteen-hundred and eight, three Philadelphia researchers used dozens of children from a Philadelphian orphanage for experiment in which they infected them with tuberculin causing permanent blindness and other health ailments for those involved. The children were referred to as nothing more than, "materials used" during the study.<sup>31</sup> More famously, the Tuskegee syphilis experiments, consisted of a study of three-hundred and ninety-nine impoverished black men between the years of nineteen thirty-two and nineteen seventy-two. The men who were infected with syphilis were not informed that they had contracted the disease, and instead were falsely informed that were being treated, just for the researchers benefit of seeing how the disease affected the human body. Penicillin, the treatment for syphilis had been readily available since nineteen forty-seven, yet since the three hundred plus men were under the impression that they were being treated during the study, this inhibited them from receiving treatment elsewhere. By the end of the study, only seventy-four of the test subjects were alive. The rest had died, some directly from syphilis, some from related



complications. Furthermore, some wives of the men had been infected, and even some children. The study was conducted by the United States Public Health Service.<sup>32</sup>

In alignment, in nineteen twenty-one, in Tulsa, Oklahoma's Greenwood District there was a thriving black community that became known as "Black Wall Street." A wealthy black man moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma and purchased forty acres of land and only sold to others of African descent. This in turn, turned the area into a thriving economic community due to segregation which benefitted African Americans in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, the whites of the area became irate at this notion, and after a woman filed a rape charge against a man name Dick Rowland, they used this opportunity to burn and terrorize around thirty blocks in the black area; killing around three hundred people, injuring around nine hundred, and leaving around nine thousand homeless.<sup>33</sup>

Similarly, in nineteen eighty-five, there was a bombing in which a black liberation organization in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by the name MOVE was the target. The organization had various long-standing quarrels with police enforcement within the city, as their ideologies and beliefs differed from the norm of the community. In one instance, a Philadelphian police officer was killed, and nine members of the organization were sentenced to life in prison. About four years after this instance, the organization moved to a predominantly black residence on Osage Avenue. After several complaints by surrounding neighbors about trash, confrontations, and explicit broadcasts, the then-mayor Wilson Goode ordered that the organization be evicted, to which they did not oblige, and in return became violent. On the thirteenth of May,

nineteen eighty-five, the city of Philadelphia dropped a satchel bomb on the residence killing all but two.<sup>34</sup> To drop a bomb on a community residence, in the year nineteen eighty-five sounds reminiscent of a dystopian movie. I was shocked at this fact when I first learned of this information.

Instances such as these cause a serious distrust among colored people. When coupled with bad policing habits, and mistreatment based on skin tone, the situation becomes even more dreadful. As for myself, I oftentimes find myself questioning everything that the government is relaying to the general public and trying to figure out what is truthful information and what is just a ploy to gain revenue or accomplish some other ulterior motive. Unfortunately, issues pertaining to race work on all sides. By this I mean just surrounding yourself with the wrong people can lead to negative connotations of other formulated races. Many black people refer to all white people as the devil, and many Asian and Mexican people think all black people are “nigger thieves,” and so on. People are oftentimes taught to “stick with their own,” which is idiotic in the grand scheme of things, but understandable while inhabiting this draining earth. I am not like that, but I do not expect others to not be like that, even though I believe this concept is stupidity. These are just many more reasons why I am not willing to expose you to this dysfunctional world that we are subjected to.

Chapter Nine

Disease, Sickness, & Inevitable Pain

Pain and suffering are inevitable in this world. I personally witnessed my younger cousin, who was one of my best friends at one point, be diagnosed with leukemia, a particular form of blood cancer, at a very young age. He went from being a relatively healthy child, to being confined to a wheelchair and disabled for the close to two decades of his remaining lifespan. Countless children in their adolescence are subjected to these conditions for reasons unknown, only to be explained by a malfunction in the human system due to some internal or external factor. Approximately a little more than one third of the nation will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lifetime.<sup>35</sup> Cancer is the new normal, many overcome the disease, but many are overcome by the genetic malfunction, which results in cancer being the second leading cause of death worldwide.

Aside from cancer, there are numerous other diseases, conditions, and ailments that affect a wide population of human beings. Birth defects are common throughout the United States of America. Some infants survive and face obstacles for the entirety of their life, while a large portion of others do not survive at all. On the matter, birth defects affect one in every thirty-three babies born in the United States each year, while the defects are the leading cause of infant deaths, accounting for twenty percent of all infant deaths. In the United States of America, when considering mortality, around three million people fall victim each year; which is a little less than one percent of the total population of the nation. The leading cause of death in the United States of America is heart disease, which is oftentimes connected to dietary and exercise issues. As stated prior, a close second to heart disease is cancer. Numerous other causes of

fatality exist; and following is a list of the ten main causes and the amount of deaths attributed to each cause for the year of two-thousand and seventeen:<sup>36</sup>

1. Heart disease: 647,457
2. Cancer: 599,108
3. Accidents (unintentional injuries): 169,936
4. Chronic lower respiratory diseases: 160,201
5. Stroke (cerebrovascular diseases): 146,383
6. Alzheimer's disease: 121,404
7. Diabetes: 83,564
8. Influenza and Pneumonia: 55,672
9. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis: 50,633
10. Intentional self-harm (suicide): 47,173

With statistics as such, a person being subject to any of these causes of deaths is not rare, but in fact, common.

Not all ailments are fatal, and not all health issues are visible to the naked eye. Mental disorders and issues are a rising concern in the nation at the present time, and repeatedly, issues as such develop into larger complications for those involved. There are a wide variety of mental illnesses and disorders and to go into depth about each one would require an entire separate literary piece, but for this letter's purpose I will only expand on a few. In two-thousand and seventeen, a little over nineteen percent of children aged three to seventeen years had ever been diagnosed with ADHD (around six percent of girls and about thirteen percent of boys). In two-thousand and seventeen,

a little over three percent of all adults aged eighteen years and over had serious psychological distress (about four percent of women and two and a half percent of men).<sup>37</sup> Cases as such are prevailing throughout the world, and are harder to address than other ailments or physical injuries because of the complexity of the brain, as well as the inconclusive methodology of treating such disorders. Mental health is something that should be prioritized throughout one's life, and a person should treat their brain with the utmost wariness when considering what they eat, listen to, watch, read, and practice.

Besides mental issues, health ailments that trouble the way the human body and the way the body is intended to function plague many throughout the world; without causing direct death. From two-thousand and thirteen to two-thousand and fifteen, an estimated fifty-four point four million US adults annually had ever been told by a doctor that they had some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia. Although these listed afflictions are not fatal, they cause complications for the affected being, and can often times lead to other issues such as mental disorders or additional health ailments. Issues such as these, among a long list of many others, affect millions, probably even billions around the world annually, with many of them being chronic or lifelong with no available cure.

Many people throughout the world turn to drugs to try and cope with their distress and troubles. Drug addiction is a serious problem for many around the globe and within our country; many fall victims to the influence of substance abuse regularly. Addiction is a major issue in this country and the statistics that support this notion are

alarming. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, a little under twenty million American adults battled a substance use disorder in the year two-thousand and seventeen.<sup>38</sup> Using that same time period for reference, about seventy-four percent of those adults struggled with alcohol use disorder, around thirty-eight percent struggled with an illicit drug use disorder, and one out of eight battled both simultaneously. Not only do issues as such place a heavy burden on those who are subjected to the effects of the abuse and those directly connected to the abuser, but these issues also plague the country as a whole. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, these issues are estimated to cost the country around seven hundred and forty billion dollars annually in lost workplace productivity, health care expenses, and crime-related costs.<sup>39</sup>

Even the occurrences as minor as the common cold, I see no reason for, and I do not want you to experience the feeling of such sickness. I again, may sound like an overprotective parent, but as someone who has experienced the feeling of being bed-ridden, vomiting, and nauseous at certain parts of my life, those occurrences are highly unenjoyable and oftentimes make you not to want to be alive. Ironically, as I type this letter, a recent outbreak has begun in which the culprit is a group of viruses known as a coronavirus. The virus was first identified in Wuhan, the capital of the Chinese province Hubei in early December, two-thousand and nineteen. Since the first case was discovered, the virus has infected over fourteen-thousand humans, been the casualty of over three-hundred, and spread throughout something like twenty-seven countries. Although the virus is not yet as lethal as, say, Ebola, the virus does pose an immediate

threat, and in my opinion one death is far too many. That one death could have been a relative of mine, or for that matter you, and well, you know, that is part of my reasoning for not brining you into this world.

Although, all this attention has recently been spotlighted on the coronavirus outbreak, this year's influenza statistics are startling, but are being overshadowed due to the coronavirus being highly publicized due to the rarity and unfamiliarity of the infective agent. To date, for the two-thousand nineteen, two-thousand twenty influenza season, an estimation of between eighteen thousand and forty-six thousand deaths have been attributed to the viral infection.<sup>40</sup> The odd fact about influenza is, there is a yearly dedicated influenza season, and annually the virus is responsible for the deaths of many throughout the inhabited portions of the globe. Regularly, thousands a year are the victims of the strain of virus, and this is expected.

The unkindest type of pain, at least from my viewpoint, is emotional distress. Most humans deal with traumatizing or devastating events throughout their life that bring about all sorts of distress and grief. Emotional and psychological hurt has plagued human beings throughout their existence, and some are better able to cope with these issues than others. The death of family members is something that is unavoidable, the loss of lifelong friendships is something that occurs to nearly all of us, and heartbreak and sorrow due to the loss of a lover or significant other is something that most humans have to experience throughout their lifetime. Especially as Americans, we are taught that these instances are normal, and everyone experiences them, but from my knowledge, this is the source of a wide abundance of people's anxieties, fears, and



reservation. Every human is different and therefore deal with each situation in a different manner, therefore making treating every situation very ambiguous and complex. I have personally experienced some of these occurrences, and the pain seems to be everlasting; in fact, the pain is at times so tiresome, this is just another experience that I would not risk having my child experience. There is nothing that compares to losing someone you considered your brother or best friend for a long duration of your life.

Chapter Ten  
The Case of Adoption

I am not sure procreating with a woman and creating you is fair or just to the millions of children around the world who are the byproduct of absent, irresponsible, neglectful, or impuissant parents. As crazy as it may sound, there are a great deal of children who are subject to an inharmonious foster care system, one in which many go their entire childhood without being adopted and never truly experiencing the meaning of a loving home. Sometimes I wonder if you are in fact already roaming this world, and just happen to be one of these beautiful children.

I have currently been residing at 26170 Le Mans Dr., which is your grandmother's address, for close to two decades now. I say this because just a couple houses down, across the street, I met some children who I love and hold dearly to this day. One of the youngest girls, and one of the youngest boys I became extremely close with and seemed to bond with more than the others, although I care for all seven of them equally. I try to distance myself from situations as such because, in my situation there is not much that I can do, at least in my opinion. When I got into my car accident, and finally returned home from the rehabilitation center, still wheelchair confined, I was informed with the news that their grandmother, whom all seven of them lived with along with their mother and cousin was moving to a retirement home. For the children, the five that were underage, this meant that they would be placed into the foster system, as their mother was not able to provide adequate care for them.

Barely surviving a car accident in which every part of my body still suffered from, now my emotions were being hurt to an equivalent extent. These two factors produced an extremely difficult time period in my life. I felt completely helpless, and

often times to this day I still do. If I think about those children, or hear something that my brain associates with them, I sometimes have to gather myself to avoid crying. Not because I do not think they will be able to survive in this world, I know they will, they are some of the strongest kids I have met in my lifetime, but because I do not feel any child deserves to have to deal with the situation that they have been unwillingly subjected to. I do not see myself fit as a guardian. I have real issues, and very bad tendencies that I am constantly trying to improve upon. I also believe that I lack the necessary patience that one must possess in order to sufficiently raise children. In accordance, I still make an abundance of mistakes that I know I would scold myself ten-folds for if I was the guardian of a child. The last time that I checked on them, they were satisfied with their living conditions, and although I feel they are too young to recognize and comprehend the reality of the situation, I felt as if they were in better care than they would have been if I tried to take on that role. However, sometimes I question if me being the unfit guardian that I am would have been better for the welfare of the children rather than being in the foster care system.

Those five children in the foster care system are just a minute few of many.

According to my research, throughout the United States of America, there are approximately a little under five-hundred thousand children who are subjected to the nation's foster care system.<sup>41</sup> In accordance, throughout the world there are approximately one-hundred and fifty-three million children that are available for adoption, with about five-thousand more become orphans every single day.<sup>42</sup> The bond I created with those children lasts a lifetime, and I am almost certain there is at least one

child within the system that I would be able to create that same bond with. So maybe you already do exist, and I just have not come into contact with you, but if that is the case, then what an awful parent I have been.

Chapter Eleven

My Selfishness

I refuse to lie to you. A major factor in my decision not to have you here with me is my selfishness. I have a mentality that compels me to accomplish tasks that I have made mandatory for myself, and also a mentality that desires to do what I desire, when I desire to do it. I am well aware of what comes with having a child, and with no doubt, I would make sure that if I did bear a child, I would work relentlessly in order to provide the best possible life for you here on earth. However, I also know that caring for a child requires an abundance of time, resources, and effort; not to mention the countless sleepless nights that accompany a newborn and the necessary patience and endurance of raising an adolescent. I would ensure that I and your mother prepared diligently before your arrival, in terms of finances, a stable home, and time and commitment issues, but still, I am what some may consider a “rolling stone.” Even though I am not completely financially able at the moment, I love to travel. I love to be responsibility free, and I love to know that I do not have another human being dependent on myself. Sure, if I accomplish my goals of becoming wealthy I could hire a nanny or caretaker for instances like those; or possibly even leave you with your cousins and uncle, or grandmother for that matter; but still, the lifestyle I enjoy leading would have to take a secondary role to your being.

The fact of the matter is, pertaining to myself of course, the cons far outweigh the pros when considering bringing a child into this world. I do not feel as if having children is necessary in being deemed a responsible individual. Nor is having children a requirement for the criteria of being considered an adult. I have not achieved financial freedom yet, but hopefully one day I will, and being able to wake up without any

worries or responsibilities other than what is in my control is something on my lifetime agenda that I hope to accomplish.

I am sure you would bring me some of the best moments in my life, if not the best moments for that matter. I am sure of this because some of the best moments in my life that make me smile when thought of are those that include my nieces or children that I love and have become attached to, but for all the reasons that I have addressed, bringing you into this world does not make sense to me.

I love to sleep in late whenever I wish. I love to go out and have wild nights in which I do not have to worry about coming home. I love traveling to new places and being free to adventure out and experience new things without anything slowing me down. I love that fact that I am free to do whatever I want whenever I wish, only contingent on financial availability, which I hope is not an issue in the future. I like the fact that when all of my friends are confined into parental duties, I have the option to do whatever I like. I also, like the fact that I am not connected to another woman in this world by way of a child for the duration of my life. If I am not happy within a relationship, I am free to leave whenever I please. You see many people are forced to try and make an unhealthy relationship work for the well-being of the children. Without children involved, I will never have to compromise for anything less than what I desire out of life. So equally, my happiness and yours are not in jeopardy at the hands of a third party.

I also enjoy watching and listening to entertainment that I most likely would not allow in my household if you were present. The majority of the music I listen to usually



does not contain the most positive message, and although I know the music is based on real life situations, the promotion of this music to a child may distort their perception of what is, and what is not acceptable. Even though there are plenty of songs in which I feel we could listen to together, without any care of the world, these same songs may be created by an artist who you may take a liking to. That liking may lead to further investigation, and upon further research you may find out that this same artist promotes what I consider a negative lifestyle. With that being said, music is one of the only things I truly enjoy in this world, and a large majority of the music I enjoy contains content I would not allow you to listen to. As far as movies and television, the large majority of my television viewing for pleasure is basketball, which I see no faults within. Aside from basketball though, I usually only watch a couple different series, and these series are usually found on premium channels, which entails a host of factors that include nudity, violence, and illicit acts. Again, even though I would try to instill my values within you, imagery such as this could distort your perceptions, as much as almost anything else pertaining to a growing adolescent. I would hope that my openness and transparency with you would afford you the benefit of knowing why certain behaviors are acceptable and unacceptable from my standpoint, but growing children learn by making mistakes. When children are involved, I have always said, "the matter is not if a child will make a mistake, the matter is how big of a mistake a child will make."

As every adult knows, catering to their progeny comes at an extremely heavy compromise of one's time and resources. Aside from the extra attention that a newborn

requires, there is also an extremely expensive financial burden that is placed on parental figures with respect to raising a child. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that for a child in a two-child, married couple family in the United States of America, the cost annually to raise this child is between twelve-thousand and three-hundred and fifty dollars to thirteen-thousand and nine-hundred dollars<sup>43</sup>. Over the span of eighteen years, this figures out to two-hundred and thirty-six thousand, two-hundred and fifteen dollars for the median rate. I eventually will become successful, and I hope this amount of money will be irrelevant to me in the future, but as of today, this amount of money, especially annually would put an additional burden on me and my lifestyle.

Chapter Twelve

I Can Only Imagine How Beautiful You Would Be

I often wonder what you would have looked like. Would you have favored me, or would you have favored your mother? Would you have my eyes, my nose, my ears, my smile, my one dimple, or my big head? Maybe you would have them all, or maybe you would have a few, with the rest of your characteristics coming from your mother. Maybe you would look nothing like me and would be a splitting image of your mother, which would not matter to me at all, but I admit, I would be a little jealous. I often wonder what your hair would look like. Would it be kinky or straight? Would you prefer it longer or shorter? Your eyes. Would they be big and brown like mine? Or would they be colored like your Grandmother's? Would your eyelashes be like mine? Would you share the same bags that I bear under my eyes? I hope not, but then again that is what would make you, you.

I often wonder what mannerisms you would exemplify. Would your knees shake when you are nervous like mine do, or would you clip your nails when you're frustrated the same way I do? Would you chew on your shirt in the same fashion as I did while growing up? Probably not because I would not allow it. Maybe you would be shy the same way I was in my adolescence, I hope not, because if so, the world would be missing out on all the beauty that you have to offer. I often wonder what interests and hobbies you would take up. Hopefully my obsession with professional basketball would be an acquired behavior for you, that way we would always have something we both enjoy together. Nevertheless, whatever you chose I am pretty certain I would support, disregarding activities that are harmful to others. I would not allow you to play football as an adolescent, from what I have learned football is damaging to the

brain, and to me, your body and brain are irreplaceable and something that should be cared for diligently. I often wonder if you would take up a hobby or activity that I know nothing about such as gymnastics or ballet. Either way I am certain I would be supportive. I often wonder would abilities come naturally and easy to you, or would you have to work hard in order to acquire a skill.

From time to time, I wonder if you would enjoy school because you enjoy learning, or would you enjoy school primarily because of the opposite sex as I did. From time to time I wonder would you be a student that receives many academic accolades, or would you be a student who has a tough time passing their classes. As long as you put your best effort forward, disappointment would just a be a useless word pertaining to my life. From time to time, I wonder what your taste buds would be like, would you enjoy fruit and hot wings the same way I do, or would your favorite food course be something I dislike. From time to time, I wonder would you enjoy the colder seasons as I do, or would you be a fan of the warm and hot weather. From time to time, I wonder if you would enjoy hip hop in the same way I enjoy the art form, and I constantly wonder if you would be able to rap the way I do. If so, do you think you would be better than me? Regardless of what you think, the answer is no. That put a smile on my face, which makes me wonder if you would be as much of a goofball as I am when no one is watching.

Occasionally I wonder what your path in life would be. Would you go off to college and become a doctor? Maybe a lawyer? Or maybe even the president? Would you take a different path such as a trade school? Or would you risk it all in the same

manner I risked it all, and take a chance at being a musician? One path I would never allow you to tread is that of the streets. I understand what the streets offer, and I believe I am empathetic enough to understand why certain people take that route in life; however, the streets offer nothing positive to any of the parties afflicted by the choices made in the streets. To be one hundred percent honest with you, I have a certain respect for what I consider a real gangster. But the life of what I consider a real gangster is usually short lived, and the life of what I consider a real gangster should never entail having children, at least while they are still connected to the life. Occasionally, the thought about if you decided to come out as homosexual crosses my mind. I addressed my issues with this earlier, and as long as I feel I delivered my best effort to provide the best possible life for you, your decision is ultimately still your decision and I would love you no less. Occasionally, I wonder what life partner you would choose for yourself. What background they would come from, what ethnicity they would be, and how our two families would intermingle. None of that matters though, as long as that person makes you genuinely happy, and treats you the way you were meant to be treated.

Chapter Thirteen

Post Scriptum

I hope that this letter helped you to understand why I am not willing to bring another soul into this corrupt and fucked up world. In this last chapter, I figured I would talk to you how I talk to one of my loved ones or those closest to me, just to reiterate my viewpoint. Realistically, you could have just read this chapter and received a shortened summary of the entire piece of work; but as I stated, my intentions were to expand your vocabulary, as well as going into detail about my reasoning for my life choices. I do not talk with my friends and family in the same way that I wrote the first portion of this piece, and I would hope that, boy or girl, we could build a relationship that I could speak to you as not only a father figure, but also as a friend. With that being said, I will use language that certain people would probably consider “bad” or “foul,” but in my opinion these words only hold that weight because one random person decided one day that they would be looked at as that. This is probably another good reason you are not brought into this earth, because although I would let you use this language around me, there is no telling if you would use it around others and cause havoc for other families and establishments, even though I would explain to you the reasoning for not being able to use such language in public, which hopefully you would accept.

First, I am sure God exists, but I am not sure if I believe in the right religion. Shit, Mormons, Catholics, and certain denominations of Christianity all practice different beliefs, yet they all think they have it figured out. Muslims are the most devout believers on a large scale from what I have observed, but their beliefs completely contradict other religions, even my beliefs, to the extent that it is obvious one side has to



be wrong. Church today has become something that is more like a chore, rather than an experience that is enjoyable. I am not even sure about my faith at this point, so until I figure that out, I would never subject you to deal with something I am uncertain of, especially when something like the concept of hell is a possible option. What I have been through, concerning God and religion, was such a bad experience for me, even the thought that something like that is possible for you makes my decision to not have children that much easier.

Placing my faith, trust, and your happiness in the hands of a woman nowadays is almost about as logical as mixing ammonia with bleach. Where I'm from, there is a difference between a woman and a bitch. A woman is a respectable, uplifting, noble, honest, self-respecting creature; while a bitch is a lying, untrustworthy, promiscuous, negative being. I have, for the most part, refrained from calling any female a bitch at this point in my life. As I explained, most of these women are just "lost in the sauce," as I would phrase it; but still, trying to change one of them comes at a high risk that can have you looking like a fool at the end of the day. I'm not perfect by any means, and I know I can be hard to deal with if you don't understand me, so all this together makes finding a teammate in this journey of life that much more difficult. Also, I am living in a time where females nowadays seem to be more disloyal and money-hungry than ever. These factors also make finding someone to create a child with and maintaining a lifelong relationship with seem impossible at times.

This nation is a joke. I hope that the nation progresses and transforms into a place that I could see myself living in until the time that I die, but I honestly do not see

this happening anytime soon. I recently saw a video posted on a social media website that I visit, in which people from India were beating lower class civilians to death with rods and stones. As fucked up as that shit was to me, while reading the comments all I saw were comments about how India is a shithole and things of that nature. Although I agree to a certain degree, just last week a mother of young children literally died of starvation in a holding cell in jail within the United States of America. For several days she was not fed a meal, and literally died of starvation; talk about a shithole, shout out to Jay Z and Yo Gotti. I mean this place lets Nazi supporters parade through the streets, idolizes literal slave owners, and just ended segregation less than a hundred years ago, this shit is dumb to me. I have been in a situation where they have tried to strip me of my freedom for absolutely nothing, and I refuse to bring a child into this world where even the slightest possibility of situations like these exist.

The majority of the rest of the world is even worse than this nut ass nation. Invisible lines deem whether certain people care or show any interest in what is going on in other places of the world, and war is going on in many places throughout the world. In an instant, at any time, any country can become subject to a deadly outbreak, a bomb dropping, a corrupt government, or any other factor, that would put your life or happiness at risk.

If I were to bring you into this world and you were a boy, the complications that come with raising a male in a dumbass society are challenging. First off, I don't have enough money or a job that affords me the benefit of moving to an area in which raising children is desirable. With that said, my son would be subject to an environment that I

would not like them to be. There are some valuable life lessons to be gained from being raised in an environment as described, but the negatives far outweigh the positives in my opinion. A lot of people like the saying, "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger," but these same people are often in need of psychological help due to the traumatic events that they have experienced throughout their lifetime. There is truth to the saying, as if you are a wise person there is a valuable lesson to be learned from any negative situation, but some situations have negative effects that can last a lifetime. The world seems as if nothing you do is ever good enough, and I don't want any of these burdens placed on you as a man.

Females have it even harder than men do, or at least that is the way it seems from the outside looking in. A large portion of the world still treats women as the lesser counterpart, as opposed to men, and having to fight for equality based on gender is as stupid as having to fight for equal rights based on skin color. I have personally witnessed females being abused at the hands of men, and I would never risk that kind of psychological distress on you. The fact is, rape, abuse, and other injustices caused by men pertaining to women are more common than people like to admit. If you were born a female, you would be at risk of some of these issues since birth, and I don't feel like that is right in any sense of the word.

In the year two-thousand and twenty, discrimination based on skin tone is still relevant, and to be honest, I don't see the issue going away anytime soon. A large portion of humans are trash, as bad as it sounds to say that, that is the conclusion I have come to. Not that I mean they deserve to be thrown in the trash, or treated as such, but

their actions do not consider anybody other than their selves. If I were to conceive you, you would obviously be of African descent. Therefore, you would experience events in your life where you were discriminated against based solely on the color of your skin. Less pronounced than older times, but occasionally I feel that the discrimination today is worse than in the past; maybe not in terms of violence, but because today the discrimination is predominantly carried out in ways that I cannot respect. At least in the past, if a white person disliked you because of your skin tone, you were aware of it because it was blatant and outspoken; today that discrimination is usually internalized and carried out in a coward like manner. Maybe it's not worse, but it is frustrating. I remember one time I was standing outside in front of my house with a close friend of mine just talking when a car drove by, and out of the window a white boy yelled "NIGGERS." Probably more of his parents' fault than his, but I was mad enough to do something that would land me in jail for the rest of my life if he wasn't such a bitch and had to do a verbal drive-by. Not to mention, I am half white. Anyways, I would never want you to experience even the slightest amount of racism or discrimination in your life, this shit is lame.

From the onset, it is a real possibility that you might be born with a condition or a genetic deformity. I would love you no less, but having to live your life like that, without any say is pretty fucked up to me. You never asked to be here in the first place, and now you have to deal with even more issues. Even if you were born healthy, it is a ninety-nine-point nine percent guarantee that throughout your life you would experience some kind of health ailment, illness, sickness, or something of the sort. I

don't want you to feel any pain, ever. The large majority of us die one day, that is a fact, and how you die is really not up to you. Plus, chances are, me and your mother would die before you, and you would most likely feel grief and sorrow about this. At a certain point in my life, I was suicidal, and trust me, that is one of the worst feelings in the world. I am no longer, and do not think I will ever be there again, but suicide was a reality that I faced while trying to become a man.

Having a child is a little selfish to me. There are millions of children around the world that have not chosen to be here, that have been abandoned by their biological parents, that are yearning for a loving home. I have considered adoption, but ultimately, I do not want the responsibility of a child in this lifetime. This is predominantly because of my selfishness, I admit it. I like to live in a manner that in my opinion, is not fitting for the guardian of an adolescent. I am pretty chill, and don't do much too often, but I don't desire the responsibility of another human being. Being able to do whatever I want, whenever I want, while at the same time never having to care about making sure that my child is secure and safe is one of the most pleasant things in my life. I also do not, at this point in life, see myself fit as a parent. I always handle my business, and I am sure a child would make me grow up and prioritize differently, but still, I have issues that are not as easy to fix, and that I am still working on.

In a perfect world, there would be no war, no discrimination, no violence. I would have a beautiful wife, with preferably a beautiful little daughter, or maybe both a daughter and son. You would be as beautiful inside as you were outside, and everything would be perfect. Unfortunately, that is not the world we live in, and I can't

make sense of bringing you into this world. Even though, I would hope you would enjoy hanging out with me and give me the opportunity to teach you things and get you fly just like your dad.

My point is, the world is filled with a lot of bullshit, much more bullshit than I would ever want you to be subjected to. I also know your little ass would cause me all kind of trouble, and if what I believe about God carrying out “karma” is true in any sense, this trouble would be more than I could imagine based on some of the stuff I put your grandmother through. By no means am I trying to persuade others to not bare children, this is just a personal preference; but I am trying to influence people to attempt to create a better world for the children that are forced to inhabit the world without any consent. I hope this piece opens a few eyes to just how bad we are living and creates even the slightest amount of change for the betterment of someone’s life. In the words of the late great Christopher Wallace, “I’m just another young black male misunderstood, and it’s still all good.”

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