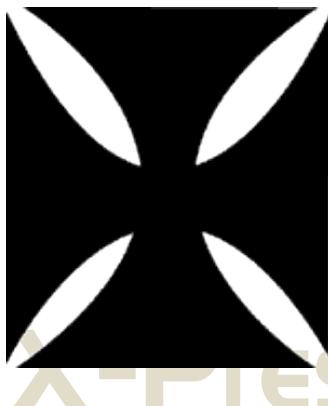


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## MMUSU YIDEE

"that which removes  
bad luck"



## Adinkra symbol meaning:

symbol of  
good fortune  
and sanctity

## I Miss #Dating

by Talk2Q



I remember when dating was an audition for something greater. It was two people coming together to see if they could co-exist in a relationship. You asked questions to get to know the other person in order to find out if you two could get along long-term. You participated in activities together

to enjoy each other's company. It was a patient process that promoted good decision-making.

That was the 90's and before.

If you ask 10 people to define "dating" today, then don't be surprised if you get at least six different answers. It just doesn't mean the same thing that it did almost 20 years ago. It's not really looked at as an audition for something greater any more. Now it's just something to do. I've communicated/dat

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ed with women for months who didn't learn jack about me. It's like they didn't even know what important questions to ask me. They either never bothered to find out where I went to high school. They didn't learn the sizes of my clothes. They never even saw my music library. They don't even know what has shaped me to be the person I am today.

There's really no learning process in dating now. It's just small talk, sex, and no plans after that. If a woman happens to get pregnant, then maybe at that

point, the two will try to be a couple. If either of them gets bored, then someone dumps the other. But, getting married is no longer first on the priority list. Dating is just something to do until the next interesting person comes along.

Think about how many single people you know. They're not all single because they can't find anyone who is right for them. Most are single because

*they don't know what to do with someone who is right for them.* It's like dogs that chase cars. If the car stops, the dog looks confused on what to do because catching the car was never in the plan.

*People love the chase, but don't want to make a catch. Because actually catching something requires that you to do something to keep it. And most people don't know how to keep someone or they lack the confidence to learn how.*

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## From Where I Sit (Rural Areas

Make the Grade) by El  
Paso Joe



From where I sit Rural Areas Make the Grade Imagine your nearest neighbor living a far as a few miles; now, imagine that same neighbor living as close as a few steps. Realistically, many of us enjoy living between these two extremes. For the most

part, people like living in certain places. Most people from the city would gasp in horror at living in a rural area. Likewise, most people who live in rural areas would be reviled by living in a big city. As a person who has enjoyed living in places as large as New York, NY and in places as small as Columbia, MO, I believe the conditions of living in most rural areas outweigh the conditions of living in any city. Most cities are smog-filled and very congested. Because of the climate, some people have to relocate to a cleaner environment, and the term "people person" takes on a new meaning when walking or sitting shoulder to shoulder on every commute. Also, most jobs pay more, but that excess is quickly absorbed by the high cost of living. A studio

apartment in New York, for example, averages \$2000 a month. Further, most cities have high crime. Although crime is not a big-city phenomenon, it occurs more frequently in urban areas.

By contrast, rural areas are vastly different. Small towns have fewer pollutants and fewer people. Farming is synonymous with country living; whereas, industrialization is not. Thus, a cleaner environment exists. Also, rural areas are never densely populated which provides more space. Although most jobs pay less, the cost of living is less. A \$2000 mortgage affords extremely comfortable living. Finally, the image of rural America still suggests that small towns are crime free. This perception is not

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accurate; yet, relative to the problems of some large urban communities, rural areas do look like havens of safety.

All in all, the benefits of living in a rural community greatly surpass the benefits of living in a city. When one juxtaposes the environment, the population, and the rate of crime, rural areas win. While readily admitting small communities are not for everyone, there may be some who are undecided. As a once undecided, I quickly realized that city living was not for me. If I had known some of the above-mentioned factors, my decision would have been less costly and less time consuming. Therefore, make sure you have done a thorough evaluation prior to making a choice in where to live.

EL PASO JOE



## America Has Hit Rock Bottom

by  
Talk2Q

It was bound to happen. That big "thud" that you heard after the last election was this

country hitting rock bottom. This country is in a very, very bad place and it's not going to get better any time soon.

Racism is as prevalent as it's ever been over the past 50 years. Politicians are more corrupt than ever before. Jobs are non-existent despite the fact that our infrastructure is crumbling like an Oreo in Shaquille O'Neal's back pocket. Violent crime rates are higher than giraffe nostrils while cops are shooting first and *not* asking questions later.

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All of this comes from an accumulation of things over the past 30 or 40 years. Because of that, it can't be fixed overnight. But make no mistake about it. It *can* be fixed.

Well, not racism. That's never going away in the U.S. This country was built on racism, so it has no choice but to continue to spawn racism. You can't plant an apple tree and expect oranges, no matter how hard

you wish for them.

But, everything else can be fixed. We can vote crooked politicians out of office if we actually took time to think. We get swayed by name recognition and political party loyalty when we step into a voting booth. And while I'm on the topic, let me step on my soapbox for a minute...

(steps on soapbox)  
Black people need to stop voting for Democrats as a default. The only reason that I say that is because Democrats are so confident that

we're going to vote for them, that they don't even try to do anything substantial for us.

When I was a child, I remember countless Democratic candidates coming to my neighborhood to speak to the voters. They asked questions and acted like they truly wanted to earn our votes. As an adult, do you know how many Democrats have visited my current neighborhood?

Zero.

I've been visited by plenty of Jehovah's Witnesses, but the

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next Democratic candidate to step into my driveway will be the first. And I've lived here for 20 years.

As for Republicans... They refuse to even make the effort to meet with black people because they know that we're not going to vote for them any way. Black people got upset that Donald Trump didn't meet with certain black "leaders". Why should he? For PR? Would you waste your time visiting someone that you knew was biased against you?

No, you probably

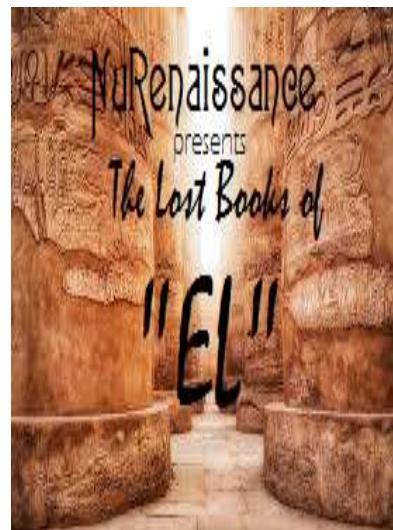
wouldn't. Until black people make Democrats earn their votes once again, then we'll keep getting what we're getting. You can't do the same thing over and over and expect different results. That's just dumb.

(steps off soapbox)  
Dag, what was I talking about again? Oh, yeah. 'Murrica...

Until we do away with political parties, our country will continue to spiral out of control. How can you have a United States if everyone is divided? How can

you say "united, we stand, but divided, we fall" when it's always "us vs. them"? If we simply took the time to think, we could turn this country around. The people have the power. We're just too lazy or dumb to use it.

Freakin' sheep.



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## Zebra Friendship

by RaSul Tahir Hijaz El

A Zebra dons a partially protective pattern scheme which is set in place as a method for concealing its relative size. This trick – a device on a basic predator to prey relationship – proactively inhibits or otherwise shakes up the rush from a lurking predator – such as a Lion – because the cat cannot be sure of the distance to the Zebra. The Lion is well suited to see up and down. It must – except as a former resident of the forest – on the comparatively newer grasslands to its hunting niche – when attacking the Zebra – now become forced, upon engaging this friendship pattern, to rely on avenues of memory to judge,

thereby, size and distance – a puzzle that now demands that the assault be delayed. Movement of the zebra herd, within the effect established by striped belonging, cannot – with lion eyes – be accommodated for speed. The lion should starve. It doesn't.

Therefore the Zebra is related to a snail (upon a sea or a tree) and a parrot. The most difficult or intriguing equation of black-and-white is its relationship with color outside of a shading quality or tonal effect. These are nominally laborious considerations on connections with day-to-day survey on reality where the consequence is relative to a conclusion except that the brain applies an organization to wit. Patterns of black and white shifted along a path and competently

analyzed for review from a position of relativity can suggest by demand that the addition and/or subtraction of a variable constant – stripes or dots or spots – emerge or become distinguishable by a primary color within tolerable resolutions upon a particular (static) or peculiar (gaited) frame rate. The evolved defense restricts the ascendancy of color and binocular vision – a state of being that probably demands a larger brain and therefore more calories and, by extension, more rest – which equals extended parental investment – something which with its muscle mass, the lion cannot easily afford. Black and white vision may save calories over color vision. It might not seem weird therefore that the Lion may

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actually be able to smell a color.

However, relative frame rate may discourage the cat from investigating proximity of the next latest Zebra. The Lion, it seems, must rationalize furthermore, now that it sees the evidence, a hidden stallion – too big too powerful too willful a beast to remove from the equation on successful predation – and it must account for its whereabouts or get kicked and worse. For the Zebra, Walking, Trotting, and Galloping – an independent variable – transfixes the Lion and names the Zebra a horse of a different color. Numbers count. A Lion must be willing to take chances or hide relatively well to expertly efficiently when in quest of the Zebra. Digital vision, though seemingly

authorized, is more likely not useful should the Lion have already thought of barcoding a Zebra herd for tell-tale signs of inefficiency. Zebra friendship – the idea of it anyway – perhaps has cornered the Lion on its investment in the machinery for color vision except that the Lion – more fertile than it is given credit for – may have turned the investment around so that the payoff stubbornly waits for calories which can profit from this opportunity should the situation change to offer a solution. The horse as it is known is more closely related to an ant or a termite because of their combined shared distance to sugarcane. The snail and parrot similarly share a proximity to the fig. The genetic dead end for the snail is the butterfly. For the fig it

is most likely the elephant on that end. It is no wonder then that the peanut is so remarkably accomplished though it may well deny its own complexity. Probability suggests that the peanut, on options, has not found or is searching for an evolutionary dead end to deal with.

Perhaps as a subconscious suggestion, the Lion, amid desperation and confusion, may be caused by the peanut should it evolve a competitor to the big cat, to consider returning to the true forest, where its luck should be worse, if it is a dead end species. For now the Lion remains on the grasslands where it

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has not yet been evicted.

## From Where I Sit (Homeschooling; It Just Depends) by El Paso Joe



Typically, homeschooling entails parents are guardians committing to the child's educational development. According to Family Education, homeschooling means learning outside the public or private educational

setting (para. 1). Further, homeschooling may occur in a variety of venues. Structured learning, for example, mimics a typical school day. Closely related to this is accredited schooling in which the student is taught from an accredited curriculum. Unschooling is another type of homeschooling in which students are taught reading, writing and basic math.

However, the majority of the learning is centered on what the students deems important. Faith based is yet another example. Faith-based has aspects of traditional homeschooling but is tailored to the student. While there are several choices of homeschooling the obvious question is: Does homeschooling provide to the child what he or she needs to demonstrate success and to ultimately become a productive member of society?

There are instances when students are being withdrawn from public schools under the guise of receiving homeschooling. Actually, this is a way for parents to shirk responsibility for their child not attending school. These students are not receiving the basic skills, and no one is holding these parents or guardians accountable. In this instance homeschooling would be to the detriment of the student, and I would be adamantly opposed.

On the other hand, I support the concept of homeschooling when the child's academic needs are being met. When a child is being homeschooled, the child should be learning at a rate comparable to all other students based on grade level equivalency. While in this instance, I support homeschooling, there is still a need to develop social skills.

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Positive development of social skills helps us to function on the whole. This development contributes to how one interacts in society.

Overall, homeschooling can meet a child's needs if done effectively. Homeschooling cannot be used as an excuse but must be held to strict rules and be properly carried out.

## Training Trees

by RaSul Tahir Hijaz

El

Live Trees  
Those live for authority  
– not genuine in their attire  
– except from root to leaf.  
Live Trees – Accept an attraction to express an affair begun by an atom – not to make glass.  
Then there are Elementals  
... the give in machinery ...  
An engineered ensemble grown in contemplation of the Amp and Watt  
And so there are Skyscrapers ...  
– those which find satisfaction in desperation ...  
Now there is jealousy  
Some Live Trees  
But just to be a pioneer???  
– it may as well take nuts.

And envy . . . for mastery  
And a regular inclination to trust the lightning  
... to gain a technique – even as a friend . . . that thing is technical  
Live Trees . . .  
Though they decline to share important points . . .  
Could They?  
Would they notion with this concept merely to get struck?  
– And by a favorite academic . ? . ?  
– The Volt . . . a business traffic of surplus time  
... And a conscious reflection on free enterprise  
Live Trees  
... know somehow that glass and sand . . . if a tree was one to watch a volcano and talk to birds that is . . .  
– Whenever the skyline changes . . .  
Those are some kind of growing pains.

## The Element of El



(Unlisted on the Periodic Table), is a collection gathered by NuRenaissance of the post-statements and memoirs of Rasul El.

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## You're Only As Funky As Your Last Cut

by Talk2Q

That title is part of a lyric from an Outkast song called "Rosa Parks". André 3000 rapped that when he was essentially stating that you're only as good as the last thing you produced. Live in the past and you'll be a has-been.

That's a very true statement that is just starting to soak into my thick skull.



I have a very, very bad habit of trying to help people. I know that it looks bad to say that, but hear me out. Everyone has a purpose in life. I feel as if my purpose is to uplift others, whether it be through service, encouragement, or just a smile. Sometimes I will go above and beyond the call of duty to help someone out or try to make their day. But, what I struggle with so mightily is what happens after you're unable to give someone what they want.

Within the past couple of months, I've had a female friend approach me and ask for help on a project. Our relationship has always been platonic. Her

brother is a good friend of mine. This is someone I've done numerous favors for including going out of my way to give her a ride when her car was broken down to helping her work on her resume so she can get a better job. However, prior obligations prevented me from being able to help her with this particular home improvement project. When I told her that I wasn't able to make it because I already had other commitments, she got upset with me.

Now this is where I have a problem *not* getting mad. If I have a history of helping/being nice to someone, then I feel as if they don't deserve to get upset with me when I can't help them. Maybe I'm wrong for feeling that way, but that's just

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me. I feel that if you help someone 9 times and on the 10th, you're unavailable, then that person shouldn't get upset with you.

However, she did. She told me that I was "just like everyone else" and I was bailing on her when she needed help. This infuriated me. Being lumped into a group of people ("just like everyone else") is insulting to me. Especially since I'd done so much for her in the past. Recent past, too, I might add.

And it's not just this one incident that has me salty. This is just the straw that broke the camel's back. I could describe at least three or four recent scenarios from where I got dissed by others for not being able to accommodate someone who is used to me doing so. It's as if I've *never* helped them

before. *Never!*

I had an ex tell me once that I "wanted a pass for being a good guy". I didn't quite understand what she meant then, but it's all too clear to me now. "You're only as funky as your last cut." It's not about what you have done in the past. It's all about what you're doing now. You can be an "A" student for 7 straight semesters, but what's going to happen when you bring home a "C" after that 8th semester?

I now realize the answer to that question.

All my life, I've prided myself on having a good reputation. I didn't father any kids out of wedlock. I didn't go to jail. I've protected womanhood and promoted manhood. I went to

college. I've attended church regularly. I always say "yes, ma'am" and "yes, sir" to my elders. And I've tried to help people whenever I can. But in 2016, none of that means anything to a lot of people in today's society. If you're not giving them what they want at that time, then you're nothing. Doesn't matter what you did before, you're not doing it now.

Well, you know what? Society wins on this one. I'm done. I can no longer bust my behind to attempt to be something special for a world that could not care less about my track record. It doesn't mean anything in a lot of workplaces, in the dating game, or even with some family and

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friends. It's all about "what have you done for me lately?"



Comment below if you need me to explain this saying.

I'm officially no longer putting myself out there. If I'm going to be lumped into a category unfairly, then I may as well respond as *those* people do. "Sorry, I can't help you."

I can't take any more of this, so I'm forced to take a different approach. I think that for the first time in my 44 years on this planet, society has

officially broken me. It's a shame that it's come to this, but I'm just worn out.



**Talk2Q**

Talk radio show host. Blogger. Sports fan. Sarcastic individual. "No experts. Just opinions."

<http://www.T2QRadio.com>

And

<http://www.ThankQ.me>

**What Do  
Women Want?  
#Relationships**

by Talk2Q



**I want to be married again. I want someone to come home to, hug and kiss, and swap stories about our day at work. I want to look forward to planning a date night every week. I want to travel with someone who appreciates seeing different places. I know exactly what I want for my life.**

**But here's my dilemma: I haven't a clue to what women want.**

**At one time, I thought that women would want honesty. That they want a man who would tell them the truth, regardless of how bad it may sound. They want someone who is**

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trustworthy because he has a track record of being honest about his actions.

**Nope. Not it.**

**Okay, well, how about this: Women want loyalty, right? They want a guy who would never put himself in a position where there's an opportunity to cheat. He doesn't have to guard his cell phone day and night because he's not doing anything wrong. He only wants his lady and no one else.**

**Nope. Not it.**

**Okay, I know this one has to be it: Women want security. That has to be the ticket, right? They want a man who has a career and not a job. Someone who takes his household responsibilities seriously. When the house note is due then that's what he's**

**paying. He's not waiting in line for the next pair of Jordans to drop while bills still need to be paid.**

**Nope. Still not it.**

**So, what do women want in relationships? I keep racking my brain trying to figure it out. If it's not honesty, trust, loyalty, security, and responsibility, then what is it?**

**Wait. Now that I think about it, they *do* want all of those things. Just not from me. LOL!**



**Carmenisms**

**vol. 2** by Writer/Author

Carmen L. Hendrix  
(from.carmenhendrix.com)

**Today's Assignment**

P-prepare yourself for the days ahead  
R-renew your faith and strength  
A-acquire a state of love  
Y-earn for a heart full of joy#TodaysAssignment  
#Carmenism

**Today's Assignment**

Don't forget to smile. Even through difficult times, smiling can help you make it  
through#TodaysAssignment  
#Carmenism

**Today's Assignment**  
See a need, fill the need. Today is your day to make a difference. Be productive by taking care of a need that must be met. Use your ingenuity. What do I do? I volunteer. I write books that give you a mini vacation away from the daily stresses of life. What is your talent?  
#TodaysAssignment  
#Carmenism  
#SeeANeedFillANeed

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## Today's Assignment

Say "Thank you" to the people who are in your corner. Let them know you see them, you appreciate them, and you couldn't make it without their support. I'll start...

Thank you to all of my followers, people who purchased my book and/or tee, friends, and family who have been truly supportive of me, especially this year. You have been a blessing! #Carmenism  
#TodaysAssignment  
#ThankYouChallenge

## Today's Assignment:

Don't lose faith. Since all of my assignments come from personal experiences, I thought it'd be fitting that today's assignment comes with a story.

I have some earrings that are literally the word "faith." They are very small and petite earrings. While hugging someone, I accidentally snagged my earring and it fell. We looked and looked but couldn't find that earring. After about 5-10 minutes, I

said, "I have to find my earring because I can't lose 'faith'." I finally found it. It wasn't where I thought it would be, it may have even been kicked over to the area in which I found it, but I didn't lose faith.

Isn't this fitting in life? We lose things all the time. Had it been any other earring, especially one as tiny as that one, I probably would have given up. But, for some reason, I just couldn't allow myself to lose faith. No matter what the situation, no matter how much it is stepped on and kicked around, just a little teeny bit of faith goes a long way. I have so much faith in my current situation, and in the fact that my book will be successful beyond anything I can ever ask or think. I charge you to find your faith and never lose it. #Carmenism  
#TodaysAssignment

## Today's Assignment

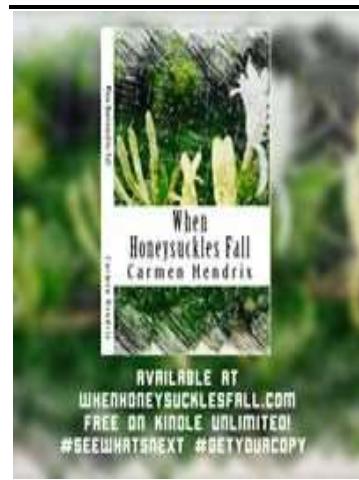
Don't let people put you in a box. People are quick to tell you what you CAN'T do and what they think is impossible. Run far away from them and their thinking. With hard work

and dedication, you can persevere and do whatever you put your mind towards doing! #Carmenism  
#TodaysAssignment

## Today's Assignment

Take note of your daily activities in the upcoming week. Are you playing games? Are you talking on the phone, texting, or surfing the Internet too much? What are you doing that is helping you achieve your goals? After you take inventory of your activities for the week, reflect on them, figure out what you can do differently next week, and govern yourselves accordingly. Let's go to work!

#GetOutOfYourOwnWay  
#Carmenism  
#TodaysAssignment



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## An Opus of Analogy “Nigga Look”

by My Mind

Black lives aight shit, if it was why doesn't it matter how long things go on and on and on, without a serious realization that as a race we are in deep shit. Why is it when we make it out the hood, we don't seem to care what happens, just the sense of I'm out and that is

all that matters.... guess what though, when I die -we die- and they is you too fool!

## STOP SHOOT ING BLACK MEN!!!!

by Talk2Q

*How many times do we have to scream it before someone acts like they care?*



Another unarmed black man has been gunned down. I've lost count of how many have died within the last few years. If you run, then you get shot. If you fight, then you get shot. If you comply, then you get shot.

What does it take to *not* get shot other than being white?

And don't feed me that garbage about "he looked threatening" or "he was a bad guy". Or my favorite: "we don't know what he did prior to getting shot". Uh, did he pull a weapon and attempt to use it on a cop/civilian? Because that's the *only* reason he should be shot dead.

I can name some very high profile examples of non-blacks who actually *had weapons* who went to jail instead of the morgue. One even got taken to Burger King for a meal after killing multiple black people in a church.

The only way to stop these senseless killings is for:

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1) Police to admit that they have a problem with their perception of black men in society. Acknowledging that black men scare you will get the ball rolling on how to fix it. Yes, there are some intimidating brothas out there, but if you're scared, then don't be a cop. That's not the right job for you. Walmart is hiring.

2) Police need to start going to jail when they kill unarmed black men. "Oh, I didn't know he was unarmed." Well, too bad because you're still going to get this jail time for involuntary manslaughter if nothing else. There has to be a consequence to the action. Paid administrative leave is not a deterrent to shooting someone. In most cases, these shootings appear to be cold-blooded murders

and should be treated as hate crimes.

3) Police need to stop training their officers to shoot to kill. This within itself doesn't make a lot of sense to me. If soldiers overseas have certain protocols that require shooting to kill to be a last resort, then why is it normally the first choice here in the states against our own citizens? In the latest incident with Terence Crutcher, the cops were close enough to easily shoot Crutcher in the leg if necessary. But, that's not what cops do. They shoot to kill. It has to stop.

4) Police need to do their jobs! If your job is to put away criminals, then do so. Even those criminals are within your police force. Stop turning a blind eye to your "brother in blue" while families are losing loved ones on the regular. How can you continue to put on a badge every morning that is simply seen as a piece of tin by black communities instead of something that

represents integrity? Show that you're to be trusted by doing the right thing!

It's a shame that I'm 44 years old and I'm terrified to see blue lights while traveling. The same feeling my dad had in the 50's and 60's whenever he drove somewhere. Even if you're polite and accommodating, there is no guarantee that you won't be a target over a "misinterpretation". I imagine an agitated black youth who may not make the effort to be polite or accommodating. How do you think his day is going to end up?

Colin Kaepernick is never going to get off the ground at the rate we're going. I hope that he brought knee pads. SMH.

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## The Element of El



(Unlisted on the Periodic Table), is a collection gathered by NuRenaissance of the post-statements and memoirs of Rasul El.

## Ground Floor

by RaSul Tahir

Hijaz El

Day 1  
Cheryl (Knights)  
My man . . . ? He  
knows what I do. He  
really does give a shit.  
He's the man . . . !? . . .  
Who the fuck is a  
crack-head anyway . . .  
? . . . Keeps the peace .  
. . I guess . . . . . He's  
the hero. Sometimes I  
wish he'd just stay  
gone. He's never  
around when you need  
him.

Day 2  
Cheryl  
Don't let a granola bar  
waste your goddamn  
time. Like ain't really  
no way to love no  
bitch. I might like to  
go home. . . TJ! . . .  
Tee-Jay!!! Give that  
boy back his toy and  
let him alone! . . . Shit .  
. . . you'd think that  
crack would somehow  
. . ? . . . save the day . .  
. .

Day 3  
Cheryl  
Must be about that  
time . . . If a man ain't  
at home . . ? – Where  
the fuck can he be?  
Crack will do  
everything except kill  
your spirit . . . . .  
sometimes . . . . Got  
a Bee Gees moment . .  
. – and a penny for  
your thoughts . . .  
Please don't pick on  
me. I got a whole year.  
All Blow. No fuse. . . .  
Upset . . Yes . . But  
no fuse to blow.

Day 4  
Cheryl  
It's almost like you  
never learned anything.  
. ? It's definitely not  
luck though. Some  
people never learn.  
Some people never  
learn enough. . . .  
That's it for the  
struggle . . . . if it  
don't kick yo' ass . . .  
. . Some motherfuckers  
don't need all that and  
crack . . .

Day 5  
Cheryl  
. . Not that complex .  
. . Not even that deep,  
really. . . A Nickel  
Bag? Oh, Nigga . .  
Please. All that for  
some dick. . . Don't  
go outcha way . . . .  
Drunk – Just like a  
faggot . . . . And –  
just like a rock . . – to  
not go nowhere. . . all  
that for some love . .  
All that for some Ass  
and Blow. Oh nigga, –  
Crack . . ? . . . the  
man can't give that  
away . .