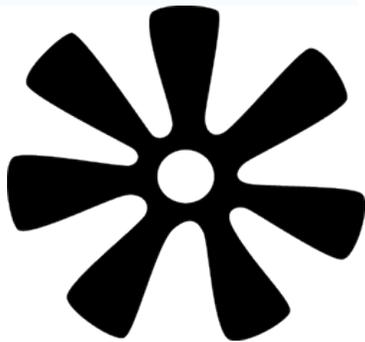


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ANANSE NTONTAN
"spider's web"
(Ananse, the spider, is a well-known character in African folktales)

Symbol of wisdom, creativity and the complexities of life

Africa

By Pretty Political

I am the Motherland: the home of what you call "free".

I am the people; with a mind of enslavement.

I am the corrupt government official.

I am the lack of economic freedom and development.

I am the lack of education.

I am the lack of peace.

I am the lack of infrastructure; so what can be founded upon me?

I am the defective economic and political system; I've set the stage for ruination.

I am the commodity of shortages; what is left to produce?

I am bribery and corruption; I have destroyed my productive base.

War and conflict has taken the place of my peace and infrastructure...

I AM AFRICA!

School Board Shenanigans

by Off The Record



First, I lay out the story for you and then I proceed to rant afterwards...

I was reading yesterday's newspaper and an article about iPads caught my attention. The Rankin County School District spent \$25,000 on iPads (50 iPads) for principals, school board members and district department heads. District officials say the new technology will help educators "stay mobile and abreast of new technology".

The deputy superintendent of elementary programs in Rankin stated that the world is so technologically advanced that the iPads will help them "stay on the cutting edge".

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The first few iPads were bought with Parent-Teacher Organization money for a few principals, but then more principals wanted one. - After receiving a federal grant for \$116,000 to improve internet connections and related infrastructure, \$25,000 of that money was used to be more iPads for principals.

The plan is to get iPads for the teachers and high school students within the next few years. The reasons given are:

"There are educational games on the iPad."

"Principals can use the iPads to do teacher evaluations and give instant feedback."

"They also can use the devices to quickly look up student information without having to return to their offices."

Some parents have even chimed in to support the purchase of iPads in the schools. "Book bags are really heavy for the kids, and if they can eliminate

the books and condense them onto an iPad, it would be beneficial."

Okay, now here comes my cynical view of this garbage. I think I've held my tongue long enough to give you an overview of everything.

(Clears throat) To the lady who stated iPads are easier to carry than books: how sorry must your children be to not be able to carry books? Books have been carried to school for decades and now all of a sudden they're "really heavy"?

Its parents like that make me wish a license was required to even have children. It's the "punkification of America". Parents babying their kids so much that we wind up with a bunch of Lindsay Lohans in the world. But, that's a story for another blog.

Sorry, but I got a bit off-track. iPads for upper-level administration is supposed to be for the improvement of the school system?

Really -Rankin County? My god kids' mom is a high school teacher in the Rankin County school district. I can't count how many times she's had to come out of her pocket for every day school supplies for her kids and now her principal is trekking around the office setting up his iTunes playlist.

So, upper-level admins (whose jobs are mostly made up) can get \$500 toys while the students don't even have the necessary items that they need to participate in a normal school day. And the reason I say most upper-level admins are "made up" positions is because the Department of Education has a superintendent or bureau director for every single thing in school:

Bureau Manager of Healthy Schools, Bureau Director II Child Nutrition, Bureau Director II Innovative Support, Bureau Director II Conservatorship... Do I need to continue? Conservatorship isn't even

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recognized by my spell checker so how in the world is it a legitimate position? LOL! The MS Dept. of Education hierarchy chart looks like a family tree that dates back to the Mayflower.



MS ranks at the bottom in education every year because these losers are destroying the budget by creating these fake jobs for their friends and buying company vehicles and toys. Stop pissing on the people's legs and telling us that it's raining.

Corruption isn't just on Wall Street any more. It's everywhere. Everything is a business now. Hospitals have to keep their rooms

full. Can't make money if people aren't sick. Prisons have to keep their jail cells full. Can't make profits off of cheap labor without someone to work it.

Add our school system to the list of corrupt businesses. We have to deal with school board shenanigans simply over one reason: because there is money in it. That money should be for the kids, not the fat cats who probably haven't stepped on campus in months.

Parents are blaming teachers for their kids not learning, but low wages and lack of supplies isn't helping the situation. Do you *really* think those kids are going to get iPads in a few years? Or even the teachers?

I hate to play the role of Conspiracy Brotha, but someone has to say something. I work with so many people who complain about some of the same things I do, yet they don't ever do a thing about it. They don't vote. They don't attend meetings

at City Hall. They sit back and fuss as if that alone will change things. Guess what? It hasn't!

In the words of my 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Ellis, "get off of your rusty dusty (translation: butt) and do something about it!"

Letter to a Loser by And You Know I'm Right

This was written a while back to a loser that needed "letting go."

There was a time when I couldn't see anything but you, and I don't mean that in a good way. There were times when wrong words or misunderstood actions caused my world to collapse. I just don't feel that way anymore. I used to hate and be jealous of her, but each day it gets better and I care less and less about what she's doing or what's she's doing with you. I spent more time

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concerning myself with you and her than managing my own life. I'm focused on being healthy, happy, and less stressed. That's my focus. And my life no longer and never will again involve you... And You Know I'm Right.

Reverse Racism?

Huh? by Off The Record

I think the term "reverse racism" is just stupid. Dumber than "a little pregnant". Isn't "racism" the same no matter which race it's exhibited against?

Just because a group may not be *used* to racism doesn't mean when it's applied to them that it's something different. "Reverse racism" is a term that

people use in politics to get attention. It's generally a way of saying blacks and/or Latinos are getting their way and leaving white people behind.

I'm just calling it like I see it, that's all. Everyone is always cool with stuff until it happens to them. "Reverse racism" is phrased to sound as if it's somehow worse than just regular "racism".

Politicians and their media use keywords that everyone ends up including in their vocabulary. "Reverse racism", "death panels", "reaching across the aisle", "Wall Street / Main Street". It's all garbage.

We, the people, argue with one another while we keep those idiot

Congressmen in the White House as they send jobs overseas and then ask us to spend more money to grow the economy.

Let's focus on doing away with it all and stop categorizing something for political gain.



Just A Shadow of Me
Book Price: \$10

J. Auberney
<http://www.jauberney.com/>

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The Devil and Robert Johnson

by Puzzles

When many people hear the name "Robert Johnson," the first thing that often comes to mind is the legend of Robert Johnson selling his soul to the Devil for the ability to masterfully play the guitar. Robert Johnson is one of the most mysterious musicians of the 20th Century and that is not only because of the legend of him selling his soul to the Devil, but also because of the mystery surrounding his childhood, his cause of death, and where he is actually buried. Many people hold firm to the idea that Johnson had to have sold his soul to have improved so drastically in such a short amount of time, while others believe that it is simply a superstitious legend meant to add more mystique to Johnson's story.

Johnson was born on May 8, 1911 in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, the child of Noah Johnson and Julia Major Dodd's. As a child, he displayed his natural gift for music by playing the jaw harp and harmonica; however, he soon became interested in playing the guitar. Johnson tried to copy Mississippi blues legend Son House's music style, but no matter how hard he tried, he didn't seem to be making any progress and was generally thought to be a lousy guitar player. Son House remembers Johnson going away for awhile, and after several months, Johnson returned with a unique and very skilled style of guitar playing.

The simple fact that Robert Johnson's guitar-playing skills drastically improved in a short amount of time isn't cause enough for one to assume Johnson sold his soul to the Devil; however, the

fact that Johnson himself often told people that was the means of how he acquired his talent, provides enough reason for the legend to have merit. In a song Johnson himself wrote, "Crossroad Blues," he mentions being at the crossroads attempting to catch a ride. In Southern mythology/folklore, people went to the crossroads when they wanted to make a deal with the Devil. According to the legend, he was instructed to go to the crossroad where Dockery Road crosses (Old) Highway 8 near Ruleville. At the crossroads, the Devil, a big, black man, would take Johnson's guitar, tune it, play a selection of songs, and then give the guitar back to Johnson. Once the guitar was back in Johnson's possession, he would be an expert guitar player. Johnson also went on to record such eerie songs as, "Hellhound On My Trail," "Preaching

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Blues (Up Jumped the Devil)," and "Me and the Devil Blues."

Achieving mythical powers from the Devil isn't unique to music, the blues, or Robert Johnson. One of the earliest examples of this is the German legend of Faust. Faust was a brilliant scholar, but he had an insatiable thirst for knowledge and made a deal with the Devil – in this deal, Faust received unlimited knowledge and magical powers for a set number of years, and at the end of that time period, the Devil would claim his soul, and he would be eternally damned and confined to Hell.

If Johnson did indeed sell his soul to the Devil, like Faust, it was not long before the Devil came to claim his soul. Robert Johnson died tragically and mysteriously on August 16, 1938 at the age of 27 near Greenwood,

Mississippi after playing a gig at a local juke joint. There are several theories as to exactly how Johnson died but neither has been confirmed with absolute positivity. The only thing that is known for sure regarding Johnson's death is that after his final performance, he became dreadfully ill and died three days later.

According to some, Johnson had been suffering from syphilis, but because it had gone untreated, the disease led to pneumonia and his painful, miserable demise. The more popular story, however, is that Johnson was poisoned by the jealous boyfriend or husband of a woman, with whom he had been having an affair. According to blues singer Sonny Boy Williamson, Johnson was offered an opened bottle of whiskey and Williamson knocked the bottle out of Johnson's hand stating that he should never drink from an open bottle that is given

to him from a strange person. Johnson became upset at Williamson for breaking the bottle, and when another opened bottle of whiskey was offered to him, he took the bottle and drank its contents. It is believed that the whiskey was laced with strychnine, a very toxic pesticide which is used to kill rodents. After Johnson's three days of suffering and death, he was quickly and quietly buried in an unknown location.

Robert Johnson never realized his fame. It wasn't until years later that Johnson's music was discovered and became popular among Blues lovers worldwide. Artists such as Eric Clapton, The Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin have all been inspired by Johnson and have covered some of the 29 songs he recorded between the short time periods from November 1936 to June 1937. He is also credited as being one

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of the greatest guitarists in history with *Rolling Stone* magazine listing him as the 5th greatest on their 2008 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time list. Whether or not Johnson actually sold his soul to the Devil for his mastery of the guitar, it can never be denied that Johnson was a phenomenal guitar player who left behind a legacy that continues even seventy years after his death.

Conspiracy

Fulfilled!!! by My Mind

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/08/11/thousands-wait-to-apply-f_n_678840.html

note: please view before reading the comments below

Like it or not, fact or fiction, it's no secret that after the assassinations of

prominent civil rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Medgar Evers along with countless others not as notable, plus the judicial dismantling of the Black Panther Party and Black Power Movement the war against people of color specifically African-Americans, went from primarily physical to the absolute worst which is psychological. This disgusting scene in the ATL, is the culmination of directly implanting tactics to break the psyche of an undesired group or culture.

This was the negative diamond that was shaped from years of socio-economic deprivation/cultural/judicial failure/and of course the infusion of drugs and its indirect effects on a community. This is definitely a victory in a most major sense for those who placed some of the crap in motion to achieve this from Jim Crow to J. Edgar Hoover and of course Satan last disciple, Mr. Willie Lynch himself. This is a victory but the war is far from over. How

not to lose the war, if those thousands of "poor Black people", lined up like that to vote, to attend a PTA meeting, to assist in a neighborhood clean-up project, to attend a positive function involving their own kids- game, school play, spelling bee, line up like that at city hall for a council meeting especially were their side of town is affected, line up like that to run drug activities out of parks and residential areas. Wake up or stay ignorant, Mutha F***A's!!

How Dumb Is

T.I.? by Off The Record

Let me get this straight: you just did a year of time for an illegal weapons charge that you could've easily gotten three-to-five years.

And just months after being let out and doing your "Road to Redemption" show,

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marrying the saddest looking woman on VH1 (she literally looks depressed), you get nabbed after busting a u-turn in West Hollywood with weed and meth in your ride?

Are you serious? How dumb is T.I.? Does T.I. stand for "The Idiot"?

Why are you and Tiny in West Hollywood anyway? Trying to "keep it real"? Ask Dave Chappell about that.



I'm not sure why I'm surprised. Some people are

stuck on stupid. They hate freedom. It's like some dudes have self-destruction in their DNA (and women tend to flock to these guys -- go figure).

Look on the bright side, dude. Maybe this can be turned into a sequel to your reality show. You can name it "Road to Rehab" and co-star Tiny.

Side note: Is Tiny not the oldest 36-year old you've ever seen in your life? I hate to beat a dead horse, but... Maybe I shouldn't use that phrase when referring to her.

Anyhoo, you can sell those leftover "Free T.I." shirts you had left in the trunk of your car from your first stint upstate.

So, when you get back to "Oz", walks through the gates and enter the yard where the convicts are getting their daily recess and scream, "Recognize,

I'm back!"



Tell Simon Adebisi that I said, "what's up?"

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**Annual
Art Showing and
Gala**

**Coming soon
Stay tuned**

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Provocation of Thought: An Opus of Analogy The Power of "P"

by My Mind

Yes, the title is sort of misleading, and yes that assumed "P" is about the most naturally, if you will, powerful-powerful-powerful things of The Great Designers

creations, BUT this is not the "P" I am speaking of (at least this time), it is the other "P". The "P" I am speaking of determines our destiny, financial prosperity, family and community stability, and definitely educational success. Drum roll! It is called **prioritizing**, what you place first determines everything

about you; yes this "P" is certainly a powerful Mutha.

**This provocation is directed specifically at the African-American Nation*



oil by M.M

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