

June 9, 1992

Peace Be Upon You My Beloved Son,

I've just received your scribe today informing me that the Beast (**prison**) has devoured you and that you are in one of the Ionia prisons. First of all, let me say it truly saddens my heart and soul to learn that you're presently here in one of these concentration camps.

Yes, as my father mentioned to you, I am presently incarcerated at Ionia Max (level 6) for a crime I was convicted of inside of the walls at Jackson prison in May of 1988. I was convicted of second degree murder of an Aryan Nation European prisoner based on the word (**lie**) of another prisoner who implicated me in this incident because of his own selfish motives, which was an early parole.

First of all I want to know in depth the full circumstances of your situation that brought you to prison. How much time did you receive? What charge were you convicted of? How many people were involved in your criminal case? How long have you been at MTU? Did you plead guilty or did you have a jury trial? What county did you catch your criminal case in? Did you appeal your criminal case in the Appeals Court? Send me the answers to these questions immediately Joseph!

Son, I would never give you one of those "I told you" speeches because I understand that things happen, and as a conscious Black man it is not by accident that you and hundreds of thousands of other young Black males are finding themselves being lead to the slaughter house of one these concentration camps. Your faults as a young man are the result of not having me in your life to help nurture and develop you. Your mama did the best she could without the help of any man to raise you. I could never be ashamed of you, and let the truth be told, I am ashamed of myself because I wasn't there consistently throughout your life to raise you. By you not having a father in your life, the streets became your father, as for millions of other Black males throughout this racist country.

Joseph, it doesn't make any difference why you came to prison. One day of being incarcerated is too long because your freedom has been taken from you. I am glad to hear that you didn't come with natural life or a bulk of time. It sounds like you were in the wrong place at the wrong time, and around the wrong people (**Zone 8**)?

Yes, you have a right of appeal, which must be done in a time period of 56 days. Make sure you are on top of that situation. You should have informed the Judge at your sentence that you would like to appeal your conviction, and a state attorney will be appointed to you for your appeal. Did you inform the Judge that this is what you want to do at your sentence? You mentioned that your mother has paid for a lawyer for you to do your appeal? Son, no lawyer is going to fight for your freedom the way you will because it is your freedom that has been taken and not the lawyer's. Don't depend totally on the appeal lawyer to do your appeal. You need to hit the law library yourself to study and research your case. It sounds like you had a bench trial and not a jury trial? If you were sentenced by a jury it is easier to find errors in a jury trial rather than a bench trial. I know your state appointed lawyer didn't explain this to you. Ignorance is the death of a person while knowledge is the life support.

Joseph, I understand that your attitude is messed up from being incarcerated for something that you didn't do. Listen up son: you are in the Belly of the Beast (**prison**). You can't hold your head down moping about the fact that you are locked up from a crime you didn't do. The reality is that you are here now and having that attitude will not help you, but will only hurt you in the long run. You have to begin doing your time, not letting your time do you. What I mean by this is that you need to begin to work to better yourself mentally, physically and spiritually. Your primary focus is to earn your freedom and not to get caught up in any of the foolishness that will keep you here longer.

You mentioned that you and your bunkie got into a fight? You said he is a coward but you still have to watch him because a coward will do a cowardly act. Are the both of you still on the yard together? If so watch

him and always be conscious of your surroundings, because once you get into a physical confrontation (**fight**) with another prisoner here in one of these concentration camps you can never associate with them again. When I was down at Jackson, I saw so many guys getting stabbed that it didn't make sense. The majority of those guys brought it on themselves because they were trying to act tough, as if they were still on the streets.

Joseph, respect everyone, but trust no one! Trust only belongs to God. It is not to be given to any man but earned through his actions and deeds. Many of these guys in here are wearing **masks** and are not who they are professing to be. From that situation of catching the false case, I only associate with a handful of guys, and that is only after passing different tests. Be aware that no man is beyond test! These guys in here talk a good game by sounding wise and knowledgeable, but **for man to know, then he must be about what he knows in his words and actions**. The greatest lie a man can tell is to himself and the majority of these guys are living the life of a lie because they have no **knowledge of self**.

Son, religion is a personal relationship a person develops with the God he or she worships. Even though I follow the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad through Minister Louis Farrakhan, I am a member of the "Melanic Islamic Palace of the Rising Sun." Before I joined any religious group in here, I first went to every religious group's service and observed them all. I witnessed that certain members of the Moorish Science Temple of Amerikkka were not about the message that they demonstrated out of their mouths. A member would convey knowledge on the one hand, yet you would see this same Moor on the yard with a sissy. The Sunni Muslims were following the culture of the Arabs by dressing like them, talking like them and growing long beards, etc. They neglected their own Afrikan culture and heritage. Even though I consider myself a student of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the Nation of Islam didn't embrace our Afrikan culture or heritage either. Once I attended the Melanic's service I felt at home with these brothers. I admired the discipline that the organization practiced and how they embraced our Afrikan culture and heritage. One of their laws was no rats/snitches or homosexuals were

allowed membership into their religious group, and this is the reason why I joined. Listen though son, you don't have to join one of these religious groups to pursue knowledge or to better yourself; you should want to do that anyway. Don't let my decision to join one of these religious groups influence your decision to join one. Again your primary focus is to earn your freedom!

I have learned and experienced that you have **rats/snitches** and **homosexuals** in every religious group here in prison. This false case I caught in Jackson was put on me by one of my so-called brother-men, who was a member of the Melanics.

Joseph, you mentioned that you are a nigga? And you will be a nigga for life? Son, you are more than a nigga. *You are a young Afrikan Prince, and are the descendant of our glorious Afrikan Ancestors deriving from the mother land of Afrika.* Once you learn the greatest knowledge that our glorious Afrikan Ancestors stated—"KNOW THY SELF," which derives from learning and knowing our great Afrikan history—once you are blessed with this important knowledge, then you will learn and know that you are more than a nigga. A nigga was **man-made** by the Europeans after they kidnapped our Afrikan Ancestors and forcefully brought them to North Amerikkka in 1619. Don't be surprised with my name on the envelope of Ahjamu Baruti. I've changed my name since I've been here at I-Max. I know that one of the first things that slave masters (**Europeans**) did upon placing our Afrikan Ancestors into slavery was to strip them of their original Afrikan names and replace them with European names. They were given names such as **JOHN-SON**, **JACK-SON**, and **WILLIAM-SON**. These names had no meaning or value to the Afrikan slave but to define him as a slave. I changed my name to define my own identity as a conscious Afrikan man. My first name means warrior or one who fights for what he wants. My surname means teacher, or one who teaches. Once the Black man has knowledge of self, he can never be a slave to the mentalities of being a nigga, criminal, thug or a gangster. He will be forever motivated to fulfill his destiny of being a **NATION-BUILDER** of the Black Nation! A man will never know how strong he is until his enemy

pushes him beyond his limits. Being here at I-Max I am locked down 23 hours a day, and every time I come out of my cell I am chained from my wrist to my ankles. I am allowed to take a 5 minute shower three times a week. I spend all my time studying the law to appeal this false case I was convicted of, reading about our great Afrikan history, and reading the Bible and the Holy Qur'an for spiritual guidance. The hour I am escorted to the caged yard, I use that time to exercise by running the whole hour. Son, know that a **MAN IS AS STRONG AS HE PUSHES HIMSELF, AND AS WEAK AS HE ALLOWS HIMSELF TO BE.**

I had a funny feeling that you were possibly locked up since I had not heard from you since you were at the training school. If I am not mistaken it was the gang **Zone 8** that led you to the training school? Now being part of the same gang has led you to prison. Joseph, let your past mistakes in your young life become your teacher because our mistakes can become our greatest education (a wise man learns from his mistakes while a fool keeps repeating them). By learning from your mistakes, you are putting yourself in a position to not repeat them. Son, being a part of a gang will only have you engaging in criminal activities, such as selling drugs, robbing, guns, etc. These activities are nothing but traps to lead young Black males to an early grave or to prison. Take a look around there at the concentration camp you are presently at, and tell me what race of people do you see? It is not by no damned accident that all you see is a sea of Black males in these prisons. That is why I call them concentration camps because this racist society is **CONCENTRATING** on incarcerating our warrior class, and if we don't have any young warriors within our communities, who are going to protect the Black families? Son, you must use this time to prepare yourself to leave better than what you came in as. Turn your cell into a university by re-building yourself from the inside out. I've kept you long enough. I just wanted to immediately respond to your missive after the surprise of finding out that you were incarcerated here in the Belly of the Beast (**prison**). I look forward to hearing from you real soon son.

Love You,
Your Father

P. S. Joseph, you mis-spelled **knowledge**, **religion**, **envelope**, **address**, **message** and **religious**. If you don't have a dictionary, you need to get one. When Malcolm X was in prison, he studied the dictionary from the beginning to the end. Words are powerful because they convey who we are. Use your mind to free yourself or somebody will use your mind to keep you a slave.