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Master Teacher: American History X

By Jonathan Tunstall

What if there was no niggas only master teachers
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I was with Imhotep when he built the pyramids
Created medicine architecture all the things you think Europeans did
Cus artifacts were defaced by Alexander the Great
To convince creators of civilization have the same phenotypical traits
Slender noses white skin straight hair
But Ozymandias tagged up structures, so they know that niggas was there
But what if there was no niggas only master teachers
Connecting the pharaoh to the gods to the people to the preachers
Organizing millions of civilians empire keep getting bigger
So tell me who's the teacher tell me who's the nigga
I was there when The Moors of North Africa
Marched into Andalusia Spain creating massacres
Using advanced military strategy and courage that never faltered
Tariq Ibn Ziyad under landed on the rock of Gibraltar
And black people ruled southern Europe for 700 years
Altering civilizations thru polymerization of cultures colliding and 7 centuries of makeshift
Modifications with Jews, Christians and Muslims living as relatively peaceful populations
Until Cardinal Ximenes under orders from the Pope of Rome commissioned Spanish soldiers to
Murder every Black who resisted Christianity
Called it a holy jihad under orders from God to wipe out dark skinned portion of humanity
But what if there was no niggas only master teachers
Would they still beat us numb the masses and assassinate the leaders
Would Spain and Portugal still divide the world with the treaty of Tordesillas
Bringing guns germs and steel to the new world under auspices of Jesus
Would Christopher Columbus still sail the ocean blue.... in 1492
Murdering men women and children with his barbarous crew
Set up a system of slavery for men and women of the Arawak nations
Rape the women steal their language culture religion to complete the invasion
Convince them they were they were savages and needed salvation
Massive acts of genocide called it ethnic purification...
Fresh memories of the moors in their minds Europe began using blacks as slave labor
Had old Willie Lynch writing letters to maintain their docile behavior
I was there when a slave owning hypocrite wrote all men were created equal
Unless their skin is brown then are 3/5 of people
Introduced the idea of race created the word nigger

To mean inferior humans armed with this explanation begin kidnapping my people quicker
Raped the women wiped out their language culture religion so they'd feel peculiar
See there's a strategy they used to rule ya
I was there when Gabriel Prosser started his freedom revolution
When Nat Turner murdered his master's entire family in retribution
He said I'm not a nigga I'm a gifted master teacher
Tried to brainwash me but I resisted the procedure
I was there when MA 'Bette escaped slavery and took the government of Massachusetts to court
Setting off a chain of events that led to slavery being outlawed in the north
I was with Ella Baker when she told the young people to rise
Stage sit ins nonviolent civil disobedience for the rights that were denied
I was there when that old Negro woman told Rosa Parks said my feet a weary but my soul's a rested
Because I'm physically mentally spiritually invested
Into the end of this system of racial subjugation so yes I protested
Risking life limb and freedom allowing myself to be arrested
For the cause of equality
Forcing a bigoted government to end 400 plus years of genocidal racist policy
But what if there was no niggas only master teachers
What if there was no niggas only master teachers
But THERE ARE NO NIGGAS.....only master teachers

I Don't Wanna Teach no More

By Jonathan Tunstall

I don't wanna teach no more
My feet are tired my voice i sore
I find myself wondering what I'm doing this for
My passion is stifled by poor attitudes
As I fill young minds with useless platitudes
You can be somebody the future is yours
Fighting tooth and nail through systematic oppression.... subconsciously infecting the minds of the
youth I serve and I fight it in every lesson
But it is such a chore
I'm talking hours after work giving feedback they don't even read
Finding creative ways to blend the bullshit curriculum with what they actually need
Cus being docile and quiet is built into the system
That silences their voices and funnels their bodies into prisons
I don't wanna teach no more
Working 10 hours a day and going back to that fuck shit apartment where I'm staying
With my city job and lawyer like loans I'll never be done paying
My slumlord won't fix the leaky sink and got holes in the walls
Scared to cook at night cus mice will `get involved
I don't wanna teach no more
But I push through to find creative ways to tell brown skin kids they free
Know they are being screwed by the system but the only representative of it they see is me
So I'm the scapegoat and the liberator
The sacrificial lamb and the deliberator of the insurrection
Trying to lead young minds in the right direction but what is right
Cus Black excellence still seems to lose to mediocre white
Most of em' can't put it into words but they know something is amiss
Looking to their history teacher to explain why injustice exist
It's like you have to inject unconditional love into anger and frustration and it takes a toll
This work that I do it drains my soul
I don't wanna teach no more
But damnit I have to
Imma sing song breakdance and rap to
Say...the countries run by neo Nazi white supremacist
Why they killed hip hop to stop the conscious lyricist
People come together than our power could be limitless
Babylon gon fall from all the baldhead wickedness
I have to say so I can say fuck the founding fathers who other teachers tell them to worship
Their wealth and influence was bought by my ancestors forced onto cursed ships
Chained shackled brought through middle passages
Stacked in the bottom of the transport like we some mother fuckin packages

Washington had slaves and even Jefferson with his created equal philosophy
So what does it do to the minds of little black boys and girls to hear these men celebrated as freedom
fighters and not called out for their hypocrisy
I teach rainbow coalitions and improving working class conditions
And 400 plus years of easily corruptible politicians/
I teach Douglass, Davis, Tubman, Assata
I don't wanna teach no more but damnit I gotta

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About Jonathan Tunstall



Jonathan Tunstall is a hip-hop educator and researcher. Jonathan develops critical hip-hop learning models for both in-school and out-of-school learning environments. He is a full-time Ph.D. student with a focus on equity-oriented pedagogy, arts-based education, and Black joy. Jonathan works with nonprofits, public school teachers, and other arts researchers to foster conscious elevating learning.

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