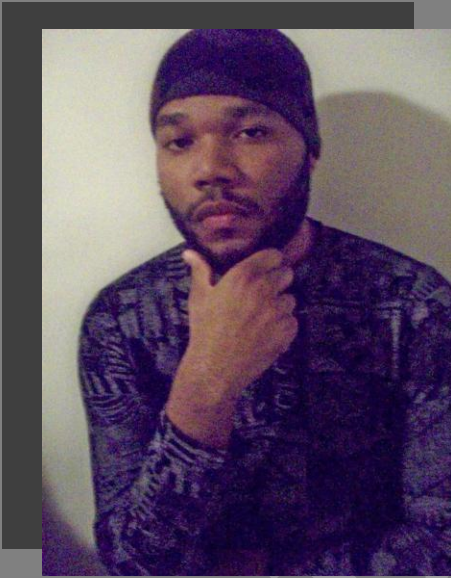


The 3 Days of Hip-Hop

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*Hip-Hop was birthed through the cultural womb on the first day.
On the second day in our present time, Hip-Hop has rebelled from its roots as it sips from
the roots of the mainstream
But, I prophesy that on the third day Hip-Hop will remember its responsibility, and
return to its original dwelling place.*



Hip-Hop was a culture on the first day. Introducing an urban flavor that the seventies had yet to taste, hip-hop's full package left the boogie down Bronx spellbound. Afrika Bambattaa, an ex-gang member, self educated on the state of the black mind, became Hip-hop's true mid-wife. Basement parties were filled to capacity as a newly found musical expression hit the streets of New York. Rap music was Hip-Hop's favorite child.

Many would say that without rap, the hip-hop culture as we know it would be non-existent. As hip-hop began to grow rap music began to expand into other regions of the United States. Dee Jaying, break dancing and tagging, were all key components were all key components to the Hip-Hop culture as well, however rap music was the heartbeat of the hip-hop body. 1979, was the year hip-hop was strong enough to play in the parks of the mainstream media. Sugar Hill Gang made history as the first rap single "Rappers Delight" went gold nationwide. This marked the beginning of hip-hop's platform, and soon enough there would be others who would leave an empowering accent in the voice of this new culture.

Run DMC, LL Cool Jay, Public Enemy, and Grand Master Flash were only a few of the pioneers that added bass to the voice of hip-hop. Their styles captivated our musical taste buds, and their lyrics gave us power. But as we turn on our radios in hip-hop's second day, as we look at the culture and compare it to what it used to be, we all come to the same conclusion "Hip-hop is not the same". More concerned with selling records than remaining true to its cultural roots, Hip-Hop no longer empowers, it entertains. Break dancing has been replaced with video girls who parade around camera for no other reason but to stimulate our sexual appetite. Graffiti that once added urban flavor to our city walls, is now used to mark the territory of "gang bangers" that reside in the area, or to pay respects to the casualties of urban life. The heartbeat of the hip-hop culture is leading this rebellion. Rap music of the first day has been stripped from its message. Although rappers like Common, Mos Def, and Talib Kweli are attempting to keep the true hip-hop culture alive, spitting truth over the air-waves is not bringing MTV rotation to the rappers of this era. + Even though hip-hop has broken national barriers gracing international red carpets with the sound of Jay-Z's, 50 Cent's, Kanye West's blasting through our headphones. It's more than obvious that Hip-Hop has forgotten its moral definition.

We cannot give up on hip-hop's forgotten purpose. Although many disregard the culture claiming it to be worthless and immoral, hip-hop remains profoundly omnipresent. The third day of hip-hop speaks of the future, and

**If we want the present
condition of hip-hop to
change, we too as a people
must utilize the power of
words, and speak.**

We must speak that hip-hop will no longer misuse the power of influence. On the third day hip-hop will return to the roots, and spit rhymes of inspiration to our expired city streets. Remembering how effective it is effective it used to be, Hip-hop will promote positivity. We must speak that hip-hop will be respected as an art, and not rejected as another form of cultural and verbal vandalism. Museums will be founded to commemorate the great men and women who impacted the community through this profound urban expression. When the sun rises announcing the arrival of hip-hops third day, what will we see? I declare that our eyes will behold a culture with the passion of its first day, the power of its second, and the promise of it's third. Hip-hop will be strong again.

HIP-HOP