

"WARWILW"

IN THE STREET THERE IS A SCHOOL OF THOUGHT THAT MOST HUSTLERS SCRIBE TO, AND THAT IS "BE TRUE TO THE GAME AND THE GAME WILL BE TRUE TO YOU." UMMM SOUNDS GOOD DON'T IT? I CAN'T BELIEVE TO COUNT THE NUMBER OF TIMES I'VE HEARD OR SAID THAT (OR VARIOUS OTHER SLICK SAYINGS). I FOR ONE LIVED MY ADOLESCENT LIFE BY THESE VERY WORDS AND WOUND UP LIVING THE SYSTEM SOME OF THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE MY FORMATIVE YEARS.

NO MATTER HOW SUCCESSFUL I'VE GONE ON TO BECOME I CAN NEVER LET BACK THAT TIME. IN ALL ACTUALITY THE GAME OR THE LIFE AS WE CALL IT IS, TRUE TO NOTHING OR NOBODY. YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU BELIEVE OTHERWISE TOO MANY TIMES WERE MISLED OR LED TO BELIEVE OUR GREAT FALSE HOODS TOO MANY TIMES ATTENTION HAS BECOME CAPTURED BY THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR (MATERIAL THINGS) THIS SO CALLED GAME BRINGS. WERE NEVER PRESENTED WITH THE WHOLE TRUTH, THE COLD HARD FACTS AND THE CONSEQUENCES WERE NEVER GIVEN THE FLIP SIDE OF THE GAME.

THE SAME PERSON (PROBABLY YA FRIEND, BROTHER, COUSIN OR SO CALLED HOMIE) NEVER TOLD YOU THAT THE ODDS AGAINST YOU SUCCEEDING IN THIS GAME. THE DECK IS STACKED AND THE CARDS ARE MARKED WELL SINCE HE DIDN'T PULL YA COAT IT WILL THIS SO CALLED GAME IS LIKE A BOTTOMLESS PIT THAT CAN NEVER BE FILLED DECADE AFTER DECADE, YEAR AFTER YEAR, MONTH AFTER MONTH, AND DAY AFTER DAY IT DEVOURS COUNTLESS LOST SOULS. IT FEEDS OFF THE YOUNG, OLD, FOOLISH, STUPID, IGNORANT IT'S APPETITE IS INSATIABLE TOO MUCH IT NEVER ENOUGH.

FOR THOSE PLAYERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THIS GAME WILLINGLY AND UNWILLINGLY DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY BEHIND THE SCENES AND ON THE FRONT LINE, YA LIFE IS ON LINE (WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT)

THE THREAT OF DEATH OR IMPRISONMENT IS MERELY A PHONE CALL AWAY FOR YA FAMILY FOR YOU IT LIES AND WAIT (RIGHT ROUND THE CORNER) THINK NOT? YOU KNOW IT! YOU SEEN IT TIME AND TIME AGAIN IN THE HOOD THIS TYPE OF DAMAGE IS WELL DOCUMENTED SUCH AND SUCH GOT BODIED LAST NIGHT OR SUCH AND SUCH GOT KNOCKED YESTERDAY.

THE GAME HAS MADE COUNTLESS EXAMPLES OUT OF ENDLESS HUSTLERS AROUND THE WAY, THE SIGNS AND THE TALK EVERYWHERE, YET WE CHOOSE TO IGNORE THEM EVEN WHEN WE DO GET A WAKE UP CALL A (BRUSH WITH DEATH OR THE LAW) WE SLOW DOWN ONLY MOMENTARILY JUST LONG ENOUGH TO REFLECT HOW MESSED UP IT WAS FOR THE SITUATION TO GO DOWN LIKE THAT THEN WE'RE BACK AT IT AGAIN NEVER ONCE DO WE HEED THE DAMN WARNING AND EXIT THE GAME.

FOR TOO MANY TIMES WE TAKE UNNECESSARY CHANGES WITH OUR LIVES WITH OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS SO CALLED GAME WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A SECOND THOUGHT WE DIVE HEAD FIRST RELENTLESSLY PURSUING ILLEGAL ENDEAVORS, WITH EVERY OUNCE OF ENERGY WE GOT IN HOPES OF CLIMBING THAT SLIPPERY STREET LADDER OF SUCCESS AND IN HOPES OF FINDING THAT ROAD TO THE RICHES.

THOSE THAT ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO LAST THAT LONG (TO HAVE A LONG ENOUGH RUN IN THE STREETS) TO ASCEND TO THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE GAME TO HAVE THEIR NAMES RING BILLS IN THE STREETS OR RING IN THE YARD IN PRISON THEN COMES THE DRAMA. EITHER DEATH COMES KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR OR "THE MAN COMES TO PAY YOU A VISIT" NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE GAME IS OVER!!! YA HEARD ME? YOU LOSE THIS ABOUT PACMAN YOU DONT GET TWO MORE MEN OR ONE MORE LIFE.

MY HOMIE ONCE SAID, IF WE GET \$40,000 DOLLARS AND NOBODY GOES TO JAIL, THEN WE WON, IF WE GET \$200,000 DOLLARS AND ONE OF US GOES TO JAIL, WE LOSE HE WAS RIGHT BUT ONLY PARTIALLY. THERE ARE

NO WINNERS IN THIS GAME ONLY LOSERS!!!

SOME OF US (MYSELF INCLUDED) CATCH CASE AFTER CASE PROUDLY TAKING OUR L'S TAKING OUR LUMPS IN THE GAME, THEN COMING BACK FOR MORE LIKE THIS IS OUR RIGHT OF PASSAGE INTO THE BIG TIME. ALL THE WHILE WE'RE THINKING IN THE BACK OF OUR MIND, "IT'LL GET GREATER LATER" WE HOLD ON FOR DEAR LIFE TO THIS MIND SET AND IT BECOMES OUR DOWNFALL, (BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT), CHANCES ARE SLIM TO NONE THAT WE'LL EVER MAKE IT, BUT WE ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO DIE TRYING. WE ALWAYS SEEM TO THINK THAT WE CAN OUT WIT, OUT SMART AND BEAT THE GAME (ALWAYS TAKING THOSE ONE LAST SNIP). BUT THE GAME AIN'T PLAYED IN YA MIND, IT'S PLAYED IN THE STREETS, ALLEYS PROJECTS, AND CORNERS, AND IT PLAYS FOR KEEPS.

THE DAMAGE WE INFLECT ON OURSELVES, AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH WE LIVE, IS ENORMOUS THIS MONSTER KNOWN AS THE GAME HE SHATTERED MORE LIVES AND CAUSED MORE SENSELESS DEATHS THAN YOU OR I COULD EVER IMAGINED. AND EVERYBODY THE COUNT KEEPS CLIMBING, (I DON'T JUST SAY THIS IT'S A FACT) DO THE MATH.

YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT'S REALLY CRAZY? WE DON'T FEAR THE GAME WE WHOLE HEARTLY EMBRACE IT WE DON'T RUN FROM IT LIKE WE SHOULD WE CHASE IT AT EARLY AGES WE ENTER THIS STRANGE WORKFORCE, PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN THE LINE OF CRIME A CAREER CRIMINAL IS WHAT SOME OF US BECOME GOING IN AND OUT BACK AND FORTH THROUGH THE JUSTICE SYSTEMS REVOLVING DOORS LET ME BE THE FIRST TO TELL YOU, THOSE BIDS GETS LONGER NOT SHORTER.

EVEN THE THREAT OF DEATH OR PRISON CAN'T DETER US OR REDUCE OUR HUNGER FOR THE GAME. SOME OF US NEVER SEEM TO GET IT WE DON'T BELIEVE SHIT STINKS. TODAY MORE THAN EVER THE RULES OF THE GAME

HAVE CHANGED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC. THERE ARE NO RULES THERE IS NO HONOR AMONGST THIEVES. I'VE SEEN A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS IN THIS GAME, LIKE FRIENDS KILLING FRIENDS FOR "SHORT MONEY". I'VE SEEN GOOD DUDES DIE FOR NOTHING AS WELL AS NO GOOD RAT BASTARDS PROSPER (OR APPEAR TO ANYWAY), SO WHOSE TO SAY YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT? WHOSE TO SAY YOU'RE GONNA GET IT AND OUT OF THE GAME UNSCANNED? HOW LONG CAN YOU HOLD IT DOWN? HUH? THE GAME IS FUNNY LIKE THAT SAME THING (PERSON) THAT HELPS YOU, CAN KILL YOU AS MUCH WORK AS WE PUT INTO MAKE IT SOMEONE'S WORKING DOUBLE HARD TO TAKE IT (FOR REAL!)

THIS GAME IS NOT A GAME AT ALL ESPECIALLY WHEN THE STAKES BEING WAIVED ARE OUR LIVES OUR FAMILIES OR COMMUNITIES AND OUR FUTURES.

II POSE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO YOU IS IT A GAME WHEN YA PEOPLE HAVE TO BEEH, BORROW AND SCRAP UP MONEY FOR YA BAIL OR LAWYER? IS IT A GAME WHEN 5-0 RUNS UP IN YA MOMS GRIBS

THROW HER ON THE FLOOR AND PUTS A GUN TO THE BACK OF HER HEAD? IS IT A GAME WHEN YA MAN TURNS STATE EVIDENCE ON YOU? IS IT A GAME WHEN YOU GOTTA KILL SOMEBODY THAT YOU GREW UP WITH? AND FOR WHAT A BLOCK, A SPOT THAT WE WILL NEVER REALLY OWN ANYWAY? IS IT A GAME WHEN YOU GET LIFE IN PRISON? HUH? WHAT PART OF THE GAME IS THAT? IF THATS A GAME, THEN I DON'T WANNA PLAY NO MORE AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU.

COUNT ME OUT! GIVE SOMEBODY ELSE MY SPOT CUZZ SOME THINGS AINT WORTH DYING FOR. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PRISONERS AND DEAD MEN WISH THEY COULD HAVE NOT BEEN A PART OF THE GAME... TOO MANY!

IN THIS GAME, DEATH AND IMPRISONMENT ARE CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER THAT CAN STRIKE AT ANY MOMENT THEY COME FROM SOME OF THE STRANGEST

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OF PLACES FOR GOOD REASONS BUT MORE OFTEN THAN NOT,
FOR NO GOOD REASON NOT AT ALL (BRACE YOURSELF).

I LEAVE YA'LL WITH THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF THE
RAPPER "DMX"^{R.I.P} - (IT'S NOT A FUCKING GAME!!!)

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FOOD 4 THOUGHT

"TO LEAVE THE WORLD BETTER THAN YOU
FOUND IT, SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PICK
UP OTHER PEOPLE'S TRASH."

"THIS IS MY CHARGE TO EVERYONE; WE HAVE TO BE BETTER, WE HAVE
TO LOVE MORE, HATE LESS, WE'VE GOT TO LISTEN MORE AND TALK
LESS, WE'VE GOT TO KNOW THAT THIS IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILI
TY. EVERY SINGLE PERSON HERE, EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO'S
NOT HERE, EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO DOESN'T WANT TO
BE HERE, EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO AGREES AND DOESN'T
AGREE, IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE THIS WORLD
A BETTER PLACE"