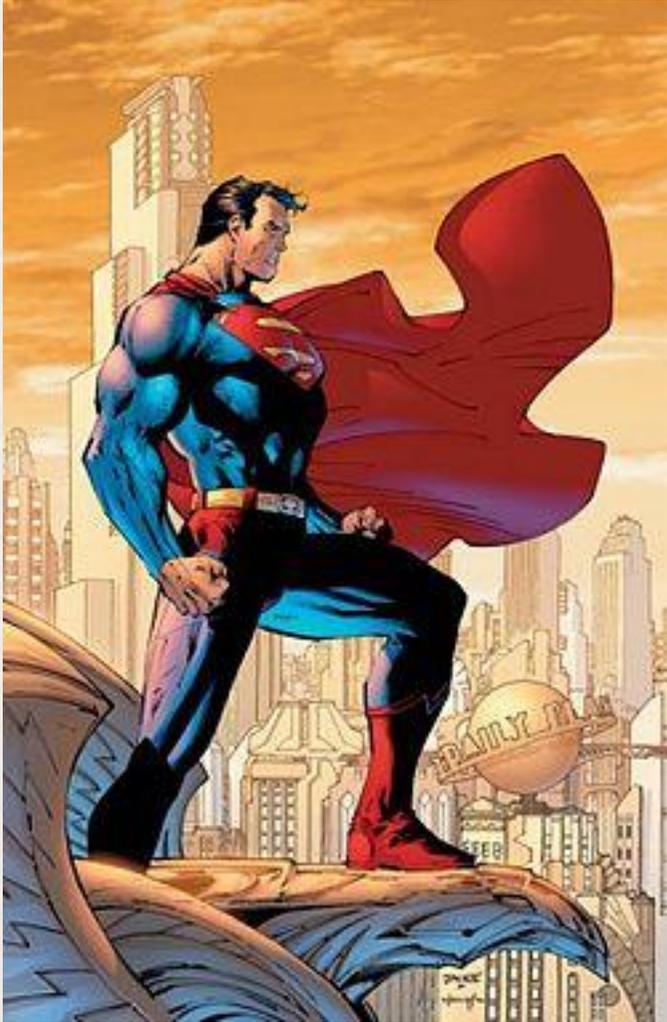




VisualAid



Reality is wrong.
Dreams are for real.

- Tupac Shakur



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Staring at the Moon

Dear Moon,
Though I sit here alone,
I know there are many.
Even if there is only a few
One of us will do
It has been a long time coming
But my change is coming soon.



As I look at you
And you look at me,
My imagination begins to fly
And my mind grows wings,
My body grows strong,
And pain has no sting.



It is here that I reflect, on the past
Contemplate, on the present
And plan, on what the future will be.
Together we stare
Together we stand in unity.

-Xavier Mason

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson is known by most as being the greatest entertainer of all time! His ability to sing and dance was exciting, and could only be described as “the best.”

What many people do not know is that Michael Jackson was a good businessman, a goodhearted person, and an **activist**.



Activist – A person who tries to promote or direct social, political, economic, or environmental change. Activism can take a wide range of forms from writing letters to newspapers or politicians, political campaigning, and economic activism.



When Michael Jackson would tour around the world for his concerts, he would often visit children hospitals. One time he went to a children's hospital, and they needed some money to continue operating.

Michael then went to his hotel room, and wrote his signature on every stick of furniture: from the mirror, the desk, to the sheets, and even the pillow. He then told the manager to auction off everything and give the proceeds to the children's hospital. Now, that is what I call thinking outside the box!



Fewer people are aware of the extreme amount of time the King of Pop put into his craft. As a youth, he would practice dancing in the mirror for hours, and sometimes he would dance so much that he would be so tired that his brothers would have to carry him to his bed.

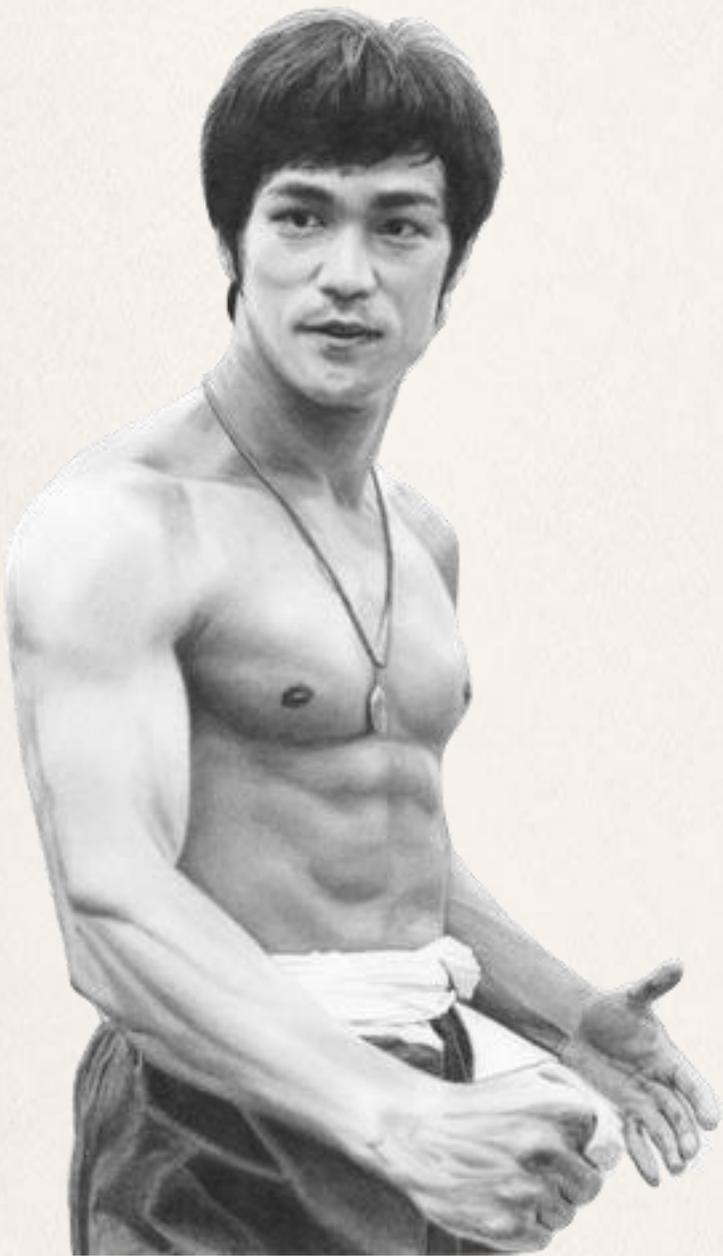
Even when he reached the top of the entertainment industry, he remained **dedicated** to his craft, and he continued to practice as if he still had something to prove.



Dedication – The quality of being committed to a task at hand.



Applying What You Learn



Knowing is not
enough
We must apply,
Willing is not enough
We must do.

- Bruce Lee



Susan B. Anthony



Susan Brownell Anthony was a larger than life figure in the women's rights and anti-slavery movements in the United States. Because of her **initiative**, there have been many advancements in human rights not only in the United States but also around the world.

She co-founded two major organizations of her day: The Women's Temperance Movement, "The Revolutions," a woman's rights journal.

She was a very prominent speaker and she delivered over 100 speeches a year.

Initiative – the power and opportunity to act or take charge before others do.



Susan B. Anthony's Childhood

Susan was born the second of several children. At the young age of three she was able to read and write. Unfortunately, her excellent learning ability did not prevent obstacles from hindering from receiving a quality education.

When she was six years old, her teacher refused to teach her long division because of her gender. Upon hearing this her father began teaching her at home. This incident proved to be a pivotal moment in her life because she was beginning to realize a problem – the social **inequality** between men and women.

Inequality – Individual groups in a society do not have equal social status or social class.



Susan B. Anthony Finds Her Calling

Susan began a job as a headmistress at Canajoharie Academy, where she witnessed wage discrimination. During her time, it was not uncommon for a man's salary to be four times as much as a woman's for doing the same job.

Being a victim of wage discrimination gave Susan B. Anthony the **passion** to oppose the gender discrimination. Women's wages and employment issues were major aspects of her crusade.

Passion – A very strong feeling or emotion that is a compelling feeling or desire to do something.



Susan B. Anthony's Courage

Like many people, Susan thought a lot about her appearance and the way she spoke. Because of her doubts on her appearances and her lack of being able to speak “properly”, she resisted public speaking.

For years, she wrote her arguments in the forms of **petitions** that were given to the House of Representatives. In 1952 in Syracuse, New York Susan gave the movement a voice when she gave her first public speech.



Petition – A request to do something. It is usually a document addressed to an official that is signed by numerous individuals.



Susan B. Anthony's Legacy Continues...

United States President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act of 1963. The law not only benefitted women, but also the overall economy.

More recently President Barack Obama in his 2013 State of the Union Address, proposed a paycheck fairness act that is intended to make it easier for women to fight salary **discrimination** without being fearful of losing their jobs.

Discrimination – The prejudicial or distinguishing treatment of an individual or group of people, often leading to worse treatment for the individual.



I Am A Woman

That is the world I live in,
Where women are accessories
Meant to fulfill a man's fantasies
That couldn't care less about me.

Well you just have to excuse me
Because I refuse to become a part of a shameful tradition
Where woman are play-toys.
When I am married, I will give myself
Away to a man and not a little boy.





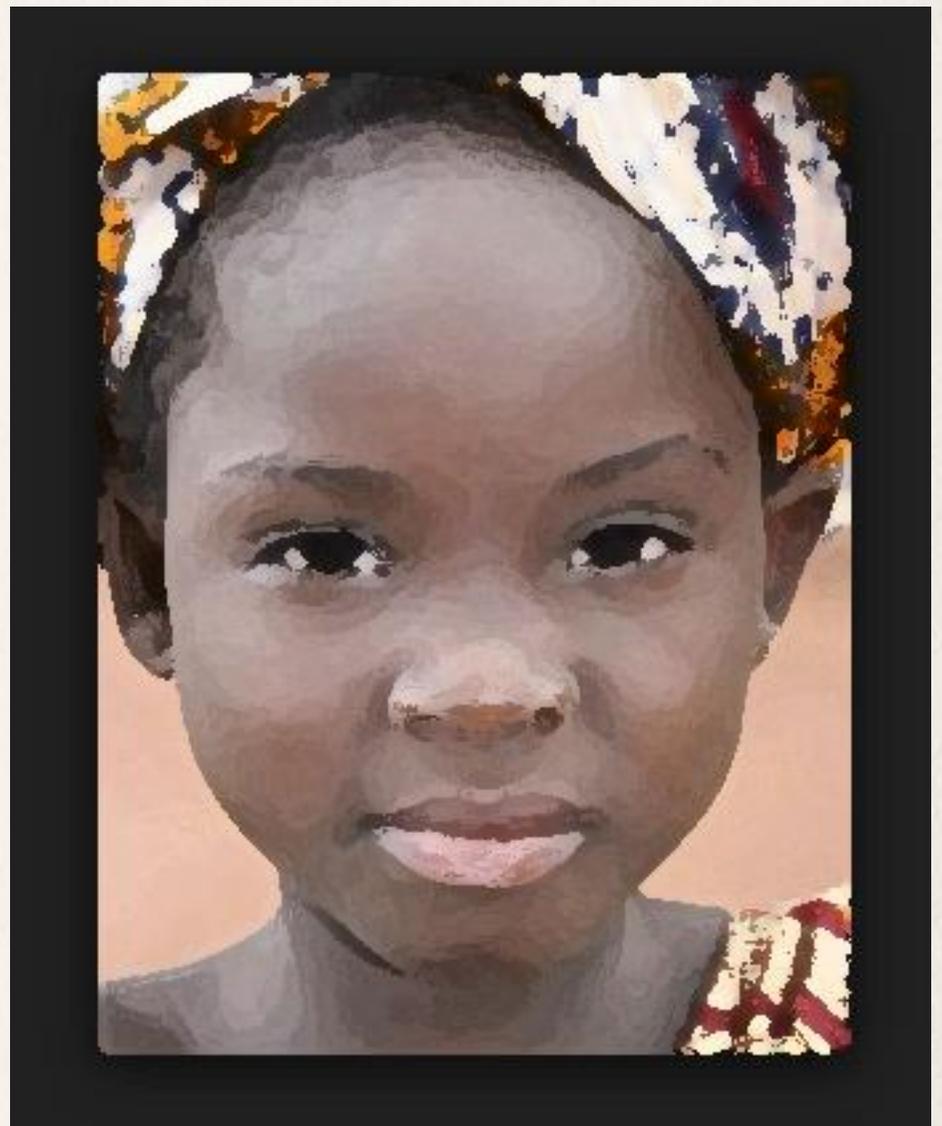
A woman's value is not lowered or raised
Because of the size of her hips or thighs
This is not K.F.C.;
I AM a prize too expensive
For your money to ever buy.

You would place this one on a pedestal
Because of her pretty face
And put that one up there too
Because of her tiny waist.
Well you can forget about putting me
Anywhere because I already know my place,
And it's not on a pedestal or in a showcase.



It's on my throne with
my head held high,
And my legs crossed
because I know,
That patience is all that
this will cost me.
And I am just fine with
that.

You see I was raised to
appreciate myself
Whether or not anyone
else does is out of
The question.

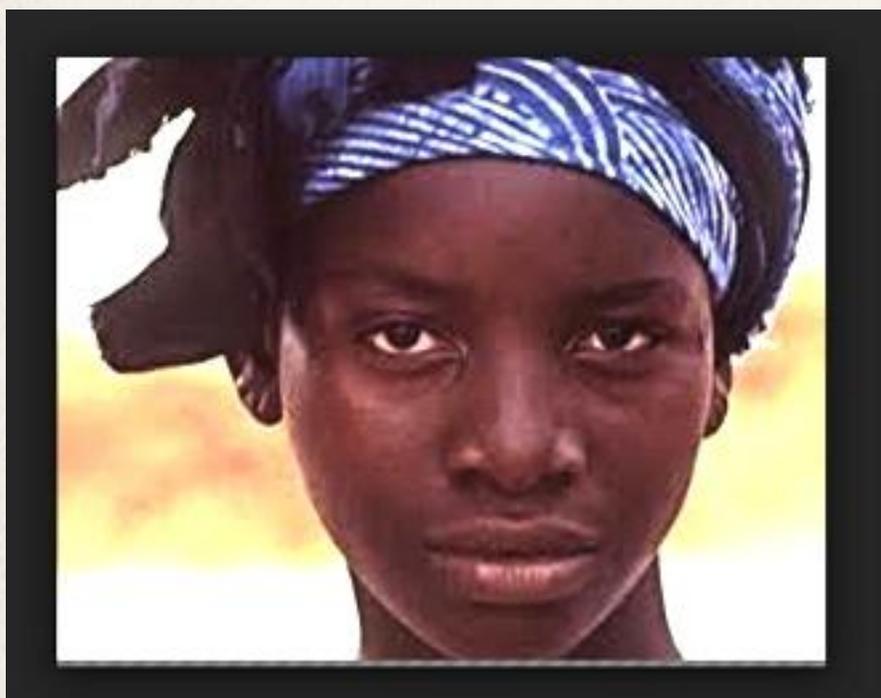




To all of those who disagree
I would like to make a suggestion;
Treat me as you would treat your
mother or sister,

I find it hard to believe that you
would disrespect her the way you
disrespect me.
Open your eyes and see that I am a
person
With feelings and emotions just
like you.
If you can't understand that then
don't step to me
Until you do because I am real
woman
And I do not need you.





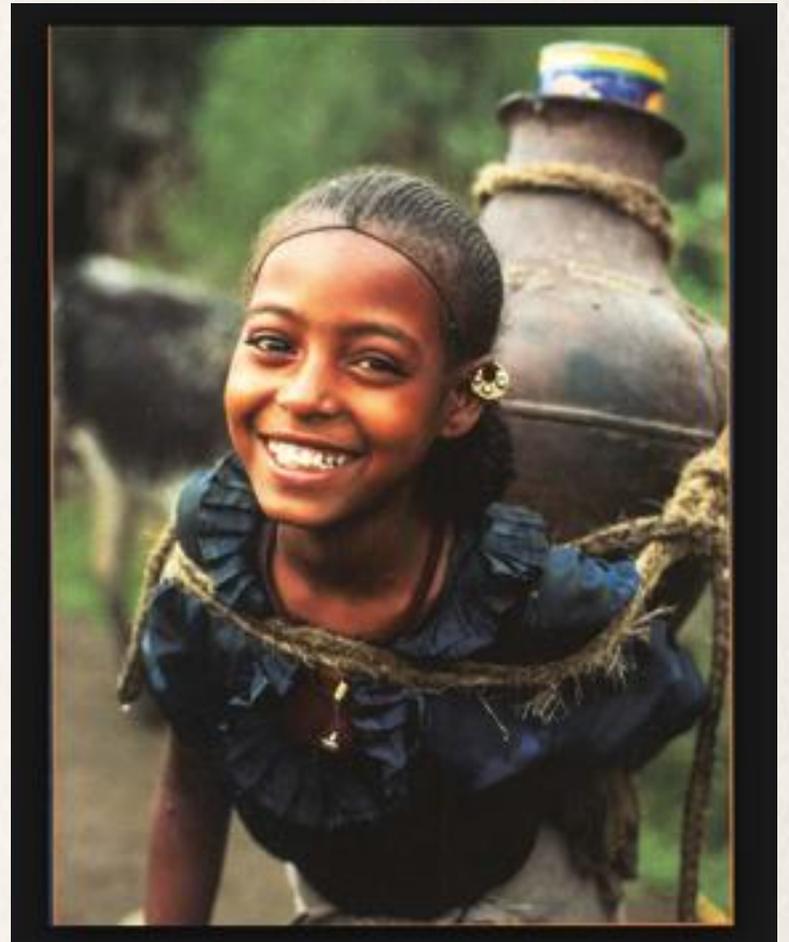
I could understand how
you would need me,
Other wise tell me why
some men be having
Two and three women
carrying their children,
Whether you accept it or
not I make you
Look good so treat me
right.
When you get that
through your head
Then you should come
back and talk to me.



Until then why don't
you try looking at me,
Not as a piece of chicken
legs breast and thighs
But as the glorious gift
sent from heaven
And straight to you by
god himself,
Not another accessory to
go with your new pair
of Nikes.

Because I Am a Woman.

- By Sharai Mason



Purpose of Life

The purpose of life is to live it,
To taste experience to the utmost,
To reach out eagerly and without fear
For newer and richer experience.

- Eleanor Roosevelt



Believe in yourself. Because I
do.

Love,
Xavier Mason

