

A circular portrait of Raymond J. Head, a smiling man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a yellow and red striped tie. The portrait is partially overlaid by a dark grey circular shape on the left and a white circular shape on the right.

Raymond J. Head

A short, vertical orange line is positioned to the left of the contact information.

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Author Biography

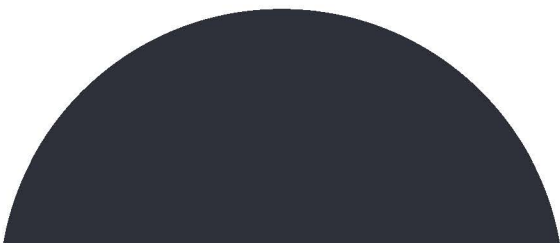
Raymond grew up in southern, California with his parents and 12 siblings. He is an alumnus of the University of Maryland including their Far East Division in Okinawa, Japan. His studies in Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Afrika were monumental in bringing to life his compelling works, **From Plight to Promise and WHY?**

After owning and operating three successful businesses over his career and the loss of his daughter Meghan, he decided to pursue writing as a way of giving back, by exposing and addressing the variable and invariable nature of life and circumstances.

His extensive research includes traveling to our Ancestral homeland where it all began, making the immense continent of Afrika his specific area of interest. His experience provides valuable insight and firsthand knowledge through eyewitness accounts, allowing him to see, touch, and experience things that most people can only read about or imagine.

Raymond currently resides in Stone Mountain, a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia with his wife Tribune of thirty years and their daughters, Alisha and Rachel. His late daughter Meghan is the ultimate reason he writes.

Hotep (peace)





Book Description:

If you think America is the land of the free or a valuable gem, then you should be Black and experience it like them. Black Americans possess an inner strength and sensitivity that is unmatched. If this power is aggressively and productively utilized, Black Americans and the Entire World will have a new experience.

WHY?- Is an insightful and conviction-inspiring narrative, that exposes and confronts the crimes of our nation and the complacency of a people that have contributed to the betrayal and broken promises to our children.

WHY?- Shares reflections of greatness and highlights models for the development of human potentiality in our Black youth of yesterday and today.

WHY?- Answers one of the most controversial questions of our times regarding "Critical Race Theory."

WHY?- Addresses our children's mental and physical health and explains how the body and mind are unequalled in complexity and unlimited in potential.

WHY- Exposes the complex interactions of large-scale societal systems, practices, ideologies, and programs that produce and perpetuate inequities for racial minorities.

WHY?- Highlights several reasons Black families are now facing multiple challenges and why preparing our children for a changing world is crucial.

WHY?- Explains the ideology and terminology of "Black Lives Matter" and the word "Woke." What they were, what they have become, and why.

Ultimately, the question of why is answered in living color, confirming that its incumbent upon us to prepare our children today for what's to come tomorrow. That makes the crucial content and directed purpose of WHY? "Unapologetically Necessary." Ase (It is so)

Discussion Questions and Topics / Talking Points:

What are the fundamental understandings discussed in Chapter 1 that bring about fundamental change, especially in the context of children learning what they live?

In Chapter 2, the author discusses our origins and journey. How does understanding where we come from shape our identity and future directions?

Chapter 3 focuses on the challenges within the public school system for black children. How does the book suggest these systemic issues can be addressed and transformed?

The author addresses various forms of racism in Chapter 4. How do the different types of racism impact the lives of children, and what steps can be taken to mitigate these impacts?

Chapter 5 delves into the importance of physical well-being. How is the body's health connected to the broader themes of cultural legacy and preparation for the future?

How does Chapter 6 suggest we prepare our children for the changing world and technological advancements, specifically addressing the digital divide and economic disparities?

With the mental health crisis outlined in Chapter 7, what roles do different segments of society play in supporting our children's mental health?

Chapter 8 discusses the state of Black America today. How do movements like Black Lives Matter and the concept of being "woke" contribute to or challenge the narrative of progress?

Considering the book's emphasis on knowing our history, how does the lack of this knowledge contribute to the perpetuation of systemic inequalities, as discussed across various chapters?

Reflect on the title "The Betrayal and Broken Promises to Our Children". How does the book propose that society can begin to rectify these betrayals and fulfill its promises to future generations?

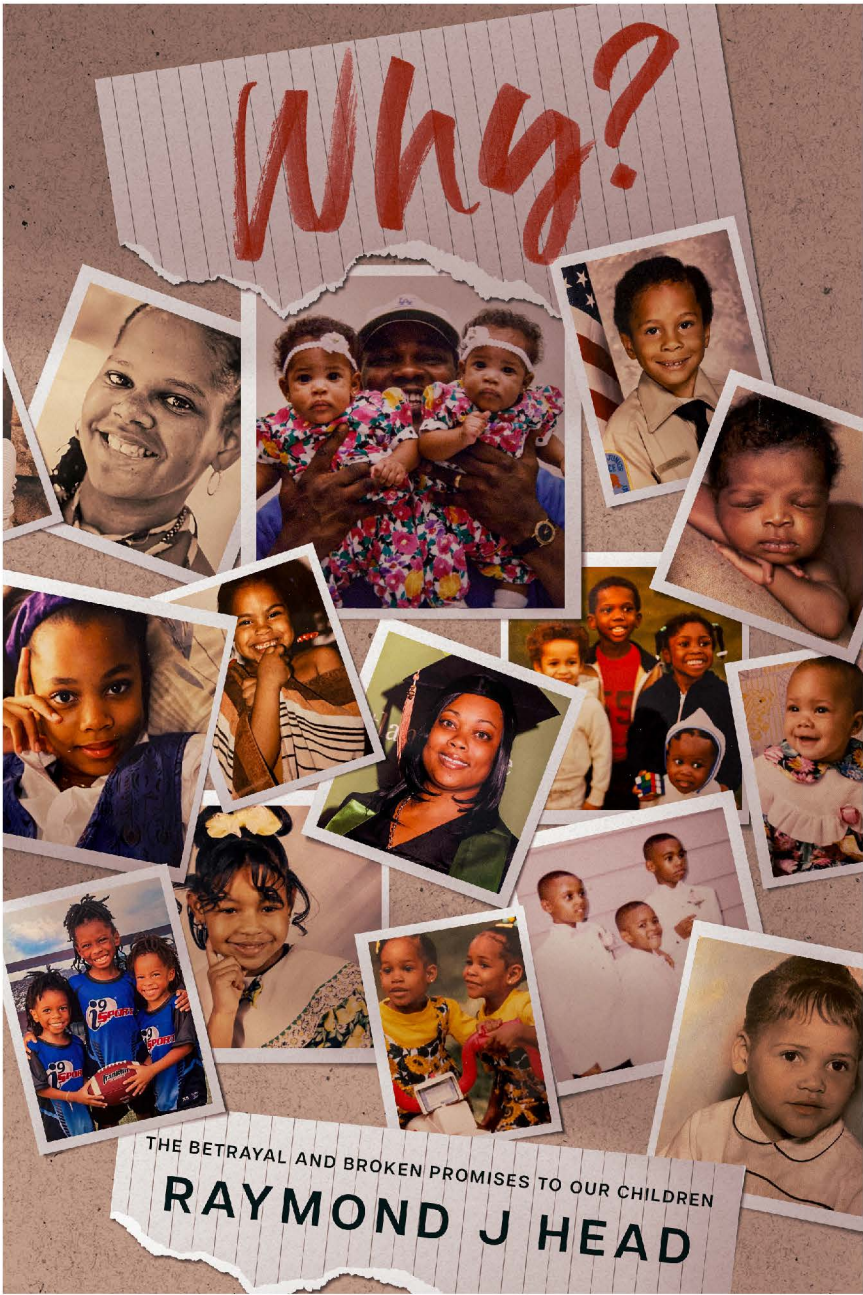
Book Excerpts:

Here are 10 powerful excerpts from "The Betrayal and Broken Promises to Our Children":

1. "Family is everything; it is the foundation of who we are. It includes all the descendants of a common Ancestor and with that comes their history and values such as love respect gratitude and brotherhood."
2. "The pledge is to bind one to another... because a chain is only as strong as its weakest link we pledge to embrace enhance and reinforce... in honor of those who toiled and implored God with their 'golden tongues' symbolizing our Ancestors' powerful and valuable voices."
3. "History illuminates the safest path in front of us by revealing the pitfalls of the past... in the hands of the greedy, the power-hungry and the unscrupulous, history is also a powerful tool of mass manipulation."
4. "At the heart of this decision was a powerful idea: students of different races will thrive together when they learn together." - Brown v. Board of Education
5. "America has one of the lowest voting rates among developed countries... The poor minorities and the young often feel overwhelmed and insignificant... however, when these groups become a powerful voting bloc, politicians will aggressively count them and laws to help them will become more of a priority."

6. "If there is no struggle there is no progress. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will." - Frederick Douglass
7. "An extremely impressive exhibit containing 800 jars of soil collected around the country... is a unique and powerful display of the growing community response to reckoning with this [racial injustice]."
8. "The Reflection Space... honoring hundreds of people who worked throughout their lives to challenge racial injustice... The Legacy Museum is an engine for education about the legacy of racial inequality and for the truth and reconciliation that leads to real solutions to contemporary problems."
9. "Education is... the key to progress and prosperity in America today... We must understand that education starts at home... and instill in our children a respect for education and an understanding of the power associated with the attainment of knowledge."
10. "Our personal and collective power is greater than racism once we awaken and unify which is why so much energy is exerted in this society to keep us asleep disunified and disempowered."





Introduction

Today's America is a fractured society, sharply divided by race, gender, religion, political party, and economic class. The roots of bias and unfairness still remain a perpetual part of America.

Because I embrace the belief that if we don't know who we are as a people, we won't know who we are as a person; therefore, it is incumbent upon me to reveal fundamental truths that are crucial for the survival of our people.

Equally important, our Black children must know and understand these life-altering truths. Moreover, most informed white Americans would agree that the influence of Black culture on America has been and will continue to be significant.

My initial intent is to inform my people, particularly our children, that we have a priceless heritage pleading for us to acknowledge and support. Mother Afrika instructs us to "Know Thyself," and navigating through that process, I have confirmed that this knowledge resides in the womb of a rejected people and their way of life.

These irrefutable truths became even more apparent as I studied the pyramids, temples, and tombs while in Kemet (Egypt). At that point, Mother Afrika had convinced me that a legacy of money cannot replace a heritage of dignity.

Searching for and knowing our true identity is necessary because knowing eliminates the need to accept distorted, biased, created labels that do not reflect our true identity. Acknowledging our true identity as individuals or groups enhances life and liberty.



More specifically, identification is the first step in recognizing that our amazing experience as a people, with its many triumphs and tragedies, is still the embodiment of totality representing who we truly are as Black people and children of a sovereign Creator.

Contrary to our current efforts, too many of our Black children are in crisis, caught in a twisted hip-hop culture, dropping out of school, ending up in jail, and having babies when they are not ready or even able to be parents.

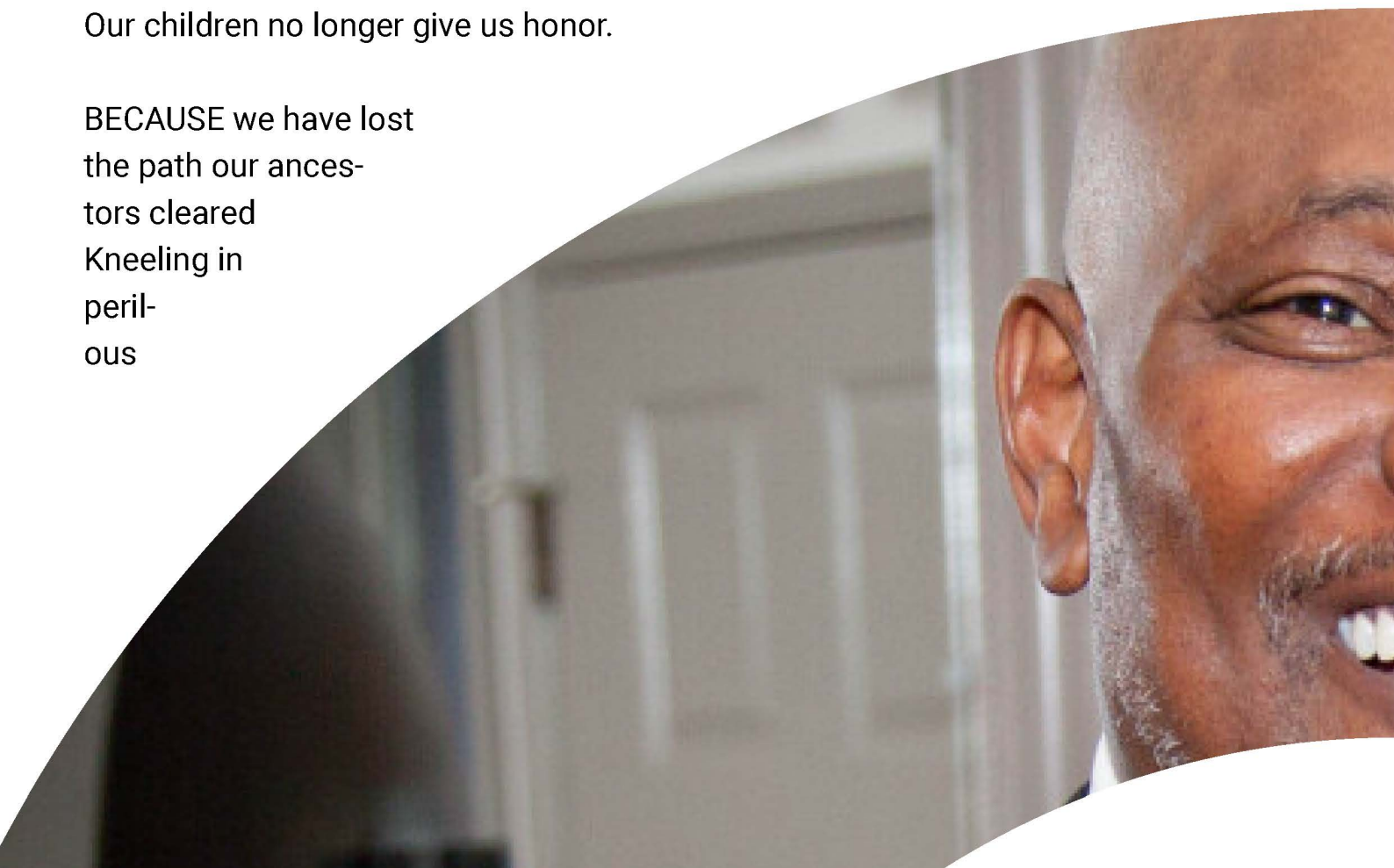
Far too many of our youth have embraced today's stereotypical nonsense that has unfortunately passed as the new Black culture. And if not resisted and denounced, it will lead our children even further in a perilous direction.

WHY? exposes and confronts the crimes of our nation and the broken promises that highlight the betrayal of our children. However, our nation's complicit behavior is not the only contributing factor in the betrayal of our children.

Our complacent behavior and forgetfulness as their parents have also contributed to the overall betrayal of our children. The late and distinguished Maya Angelou explains it best in her epic poem, THE BLACK FAMILY PLEDGE.

"BECAUSE we have forgotten our ancestors,
Our children no longer give us honor.

BECAUSE we have lost
the path our ances-
tors cleared
Kneeling in
peril-
ous



undergrowth,
Our children cannot find their way.

BECAUSE we have banished the God of our ancestors,
Our children cannot pray.

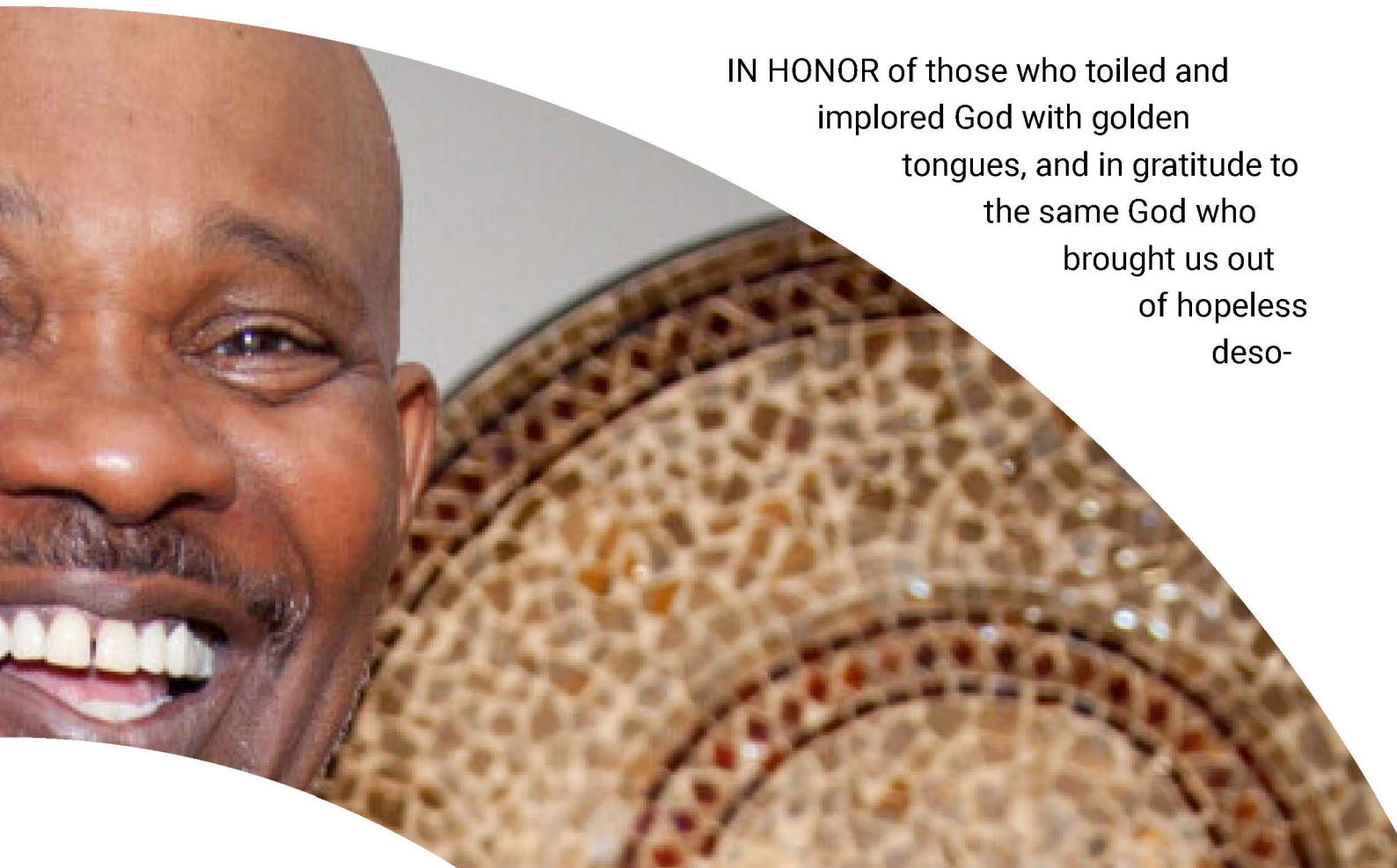
BECAUSE the old wails of our ancestors faded beyond our hearing,
Our children cannot hear us crying.

BECAUSE we have abandoned our wisdom of mothering and fathering,
Our befuddled children give birth to children,
they neither want nor understand.

BECAUSE we have forgotten how to love, the adversary is within our
Gates, and holds us up to the mirror of the world shouting,
"Regard the Loveless"

Therefore, we pledge to bind ourselves to one another, to embrace our lowliest, to
keep company with our loneliest, to educate our illiterate, to feed our starving, to
clothe our ragged, to do all good things, knowing that we are more than
keepers of our brothers and sisters. We ARE our brothers and
sisters.

IN HONOR of those who toiled and
implored God with golden
tongues, and in gratitude to
the same God who
brought us out
of hopeless
deso-



lation, we make this pledge.”

I chose to begin with Maya Angelou’s poem (The Black Family pledge) because its content is central to the theme of WHY?. It projects the ideology of universal brotherhood, love, and compassion but also taps into themes of hatred, ungratefulness, and forgetfulness.

More importantly, it highlights how black families have forgotten their past, how to love, and the cultural values that define them as a people, which have contributed to the betrayal and broken promises to our children.

However, a path to resolution is understanding that knowing ourselves is a fundamental aspect of assuming personal power and effectiveness which is essential because the development of our children is based on the information they receive about themselves.

WHY? exposes the devastating effects of the systemic challenges that our nation has created and perpetuated. Not only does these challenges negatively affect Black families presently, but they are designed to negatively affect our children for generations to come.

Through everything from banking to education, systemic racism has created a smoother path to economic success for whites who exploit what Blacks have created.

WHY? answers one of the most controversial questions of our time: Is “Critical Race Theory” a way of understanding how American racism has shaped public policy or a divisive discourse that pits people of color against white people?

WHY? Critiques the public education system in America, confronts racism, debates critical race theory, avidly engages in body talk, and reveals the need for preparing and healing our children. And last but not least, the question of Why is answered.

Ultimately, knowing who we are, where we come from, and where we still must go forces us to acknowledge that the system is not just broken, but it was intentionally designed and built that way.

Therefore, we must understand that as a people it is not about the perfection of our walk; it is about the direction of our walk and “why.”

Ase (It is so)