Summer July 7, 2014

Warning! This is Not a Test!

Edward Earl Bell
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May I have your attention please; may I have your attention please. This is not a test, I repeat, this is not a test. This is an actual emergency. I repeat this is an actual emergency, so please pay close attention and govern yourselves accordingly. The message you are about to read is of vital importance.

*What Happened*, a man-made disaster that is destroying some of our young, has landed! An alarming number of our children are dying. Be alert, let me repeat myself, our children are dying! They are suffering from *What Happened*, a kind of illness that can cause *death* before burial and for some a physical death, way too soon.

While some of our children have survived *What Happened*, others are still struggling with the side-effects. This illness that I speak of has a myriad of symptoms which are highly recognizable, but yet we tend to look past them, or bury our heads in our own progress and in our sense of overcoming and pretending that Rayheem is not in trouble or that Laquesha is just fine. Watch for the symptoms; they will spread fast when *What Happened* attacks; look for academic failure; mass incarceration as an expectation, black-on-black crime most likely, and low graduation numbers, and the lack of interest in schooling—all which may cause no hope, no dreams, and no aspirations in our youth.

This emergency call is to give us a warning to watch and take cover over the lives of our children with blankets of love and shelter from the raging storms of *What Happened*. We are in a State of Emergency—a natural disaster has been declared—summons the red cross of churches—bring in the survival kits of families and communities—and activate the national guards of motivation, for our children need lifting to higher heights, with a renewed sense of hope, potential, and dreams actualized through community uplifting.

This ends the emergency broadcasting to remind us of this natural disaster—made by us: It is called *What Happened*!

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