


Sometime in Aug. 

Say there Malika,

sorry i am just now writing back. just didn't thats all, u and about 4 other "close" folks in mi life. sometimes i get in one of those moods that aint too conducive to writing. eh, emuff.

things here are the same, not much to talk about. it was really a surprise getting yo letter. the ~~xxx~~ ear-to-ear smile, y'know, all thats involved in extreme joy (smile). i shared it with miclose associates here and told them all about u. and the things u told me about how it is out there with those who claim to be so "advanced" in their politics, aint no new news. things like the oct. 20th fasco only confirmed alot of what i suspected.

Malika, i got plans for what i want to do on the streets. in fact, mi mind' is set on it, and it is establishing some kind of structure that will deal with relationships, personal relationships and OUR personal relationships within political groups, in particular! i been seriously on this for the last several years now and have been sharing the ideas with Safiya (BJ) and several others to have some consistent people to put it on the raad. (thats, 'road')

wanna hear what um callin' it? (if i aint tell u before) Well, "Love workshops." Malika, um so convinced of this that aint nothing gon' take me from it, unless it be a national liberation emergency (smile). But the function of the workshop will be to make folks confront THEMSELVES. what we be doing to our own selves and to each other. Love is so powerful and revealing, which is i guess why we tuff-ass revolutionaries run from it so much, but from studying psychology and certain philosophies, Malika, i can see how most of tuff-guys who are so advancedd, who claim to be about creating a new world, be their own selves, so anti-life, so unloving (i.e., incapable of fully living) that we aint trully bout no revolution. we too scared to open yourselves up to the life and love within us, and never think about the fact that this is what we spoz to be fighting for! So i wanna hit on that and hit on it hard. to become more loving and so, more capable of trully living richer, freer lives, we got to understnd what its gonna take for us to confront. Ole hardened niggers in rev. garb and spoutin' rhetoric. can't even make his/her own personal relationship more meaningful, can't even make our own spiritual lives more meaningful, and yet we wanna go out and preach all that hypocrisy to "the masses." So thats where um yet, now. And i expect a whole bunch of opposition - whcih aint no big thing - but i prepare for that too. its like i have to convince the tuff rev. black nationalist movement and its even tuffer underg. that yeah we gon' git our share of fighting, killing and being ke killed. no question, wv can't avoid those kinds of consequences. But i believe that i can demonstrate how for alot of us, our liking for "armed struggle" is just as much an escapism as drugs, alcohol, and what have you, cuz those of us in it still avoid that one key thing: those emotionally upsetting struggles to change our own dam selves FIRST and according to standards that won't concentrate so much any more on making us "warriors," "armed freedom fighters" - but primarily loving (honest, open, sensitive, caring, independent, conscious, responsible, etc.) human beings who realize that warriors, socialists, nationalists, etc, are extensions of loving, powerful human beings - and temporary extensions at that. that the goal is to eventually take those "extensions" and bury them somewhere so the power of love can reconstruct something socially beautiful - the ancient dream materialized.

Confession one: the typed part was done a month ago. i started & stopped cuz i had to leave work & return to the cell. then i procrastinated in getting

back to it, till now. Talked to Safeya & she said Yuri said u said "where's mi letter?" i guilt-tripped myself, cuz it was me telling u how long it had been since we communicated, and now its me. am i forgiven? Remember how compassionate & forgiving u colored people are... (smile).

Next, i didnt know about the "crush" (is that the word used or is it merely mi egotistical choice?) on me. Doubt if it would have mattered on mi part cuz as i did with Safeya, id put u on so hi a pedestal that id have never even thought myself worthy! its nice to know tho, cuz i sure love u, Big Aista. U had alot of positive influence on me, too. enuf - i dont wanna feed ya ego to bloat.

Speaking of pedestals, for as long a time as with u, i had Safeya up there. and over the years id repressed mi intimate feelings for her & kept it very political (real, but essentially unreal). Certain positive experiences i had among other Rades (marion & Longoc prisons) made me face mi shyness & lack of self-confidence and as i struggled with it, i grew (or matured) and eventually got around to "making mi own confessions." i learned to share myself & what it ~~means~~ means, the risks, the promises... the possibility of rejection was still there, but also the possibility of a really true bonding between Rades was there too. How it would go - who knows? gotta try. So i confessed a strong desire to love B.T. and that it was even strong when we were together, but certain fears kept me from sharing that. so we went on for years just being political (with something missing). i put the letter in the mail & just waited - nervously! And when i finally got an answer... i couldn't believe it - she had the nerve to tell me that she had felt the same towards me all this time & was afraid to share it. so from that point on, our relationship has finally come full circle, in that the missing element of love aint missing no more! we communicate different now - more openly. And u know how u be wantin' to have someone who u can share even whats most hidden in u (things that trouble u) - well, when the love & trust is there, u be more willing to risk sharing it cuz ya trust the other person won't abuse/misuse what u share. so in mi mind i think - why not "love" as a working concept for comrades? What is love? communication? trust? honesty? risking? listening? etc. and make it all really meaningful to us in both our personal & political lives. thats what i want. Why not give us methods, programs to help us truly change ourselves so that our living becomes meaningful, empowering and especially - pleasing in the midst of a very meaningless, powerless and unpleasant society that we've chosen to change? Enuf. me & Safeya will be married feb. 25 if all goes well. She wants me to give u her address/phone & would like to hear from u. Gwe her a call. she works from 4pm to 12am, free on weekends. oh. Where's Oscar? picture enclosed
love u - Astanth