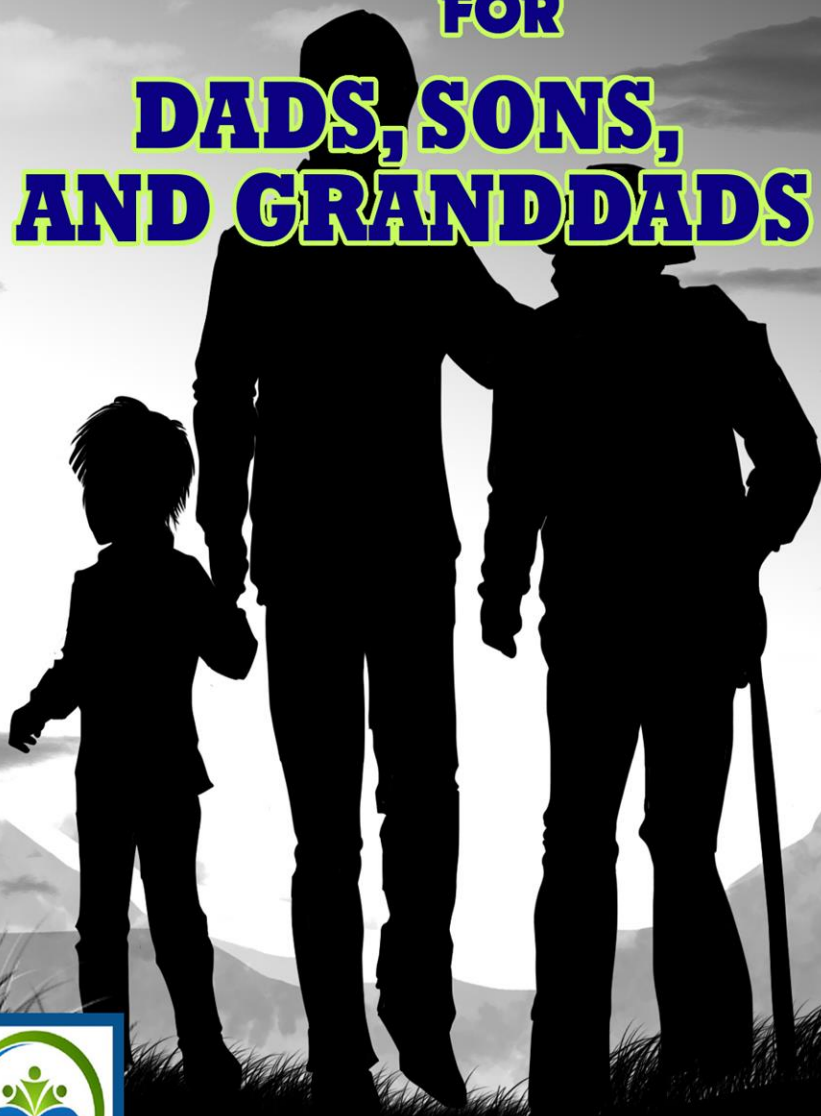


# **18** **INSPOETATIONS** **FOR** **DADS, SONS,** **AND GRANDDADS**



WRITTEN BY DR. CLEOPHAS JONES

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**Summary: Simple text invites reader to become exposed to rich poetic literary genre while learning important life lessons**

**Note to Reading Audience**

**This selection supports literacy development, comprehension, and reading enjoyment, in accordance with national reading standards.**

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Dr. Cleophas Jones

## PREFACE

*Reading* is indeed, fundamental, and *Writing* to me is an art. Writing has been something I have enjoyed since I was able to pick up a pencil and spell words. In a sense, writing and reading are interconnected, and research supports the fact that the more a person reads, the better the person writes. This principle applied to me, for the more I read, the more I wrote, until I developed my own unique writing style.

I began writing children's literature and *inspoetations* during the 1990s when I was in college at the University of Alabama. An *inspoetation*, a new, authentic term I coined in the late 1990s, which is exclusive to my writing style, is purposefully defined as – *a motivational and inspirational dynamic, rhythmic, rhyming poetry selection that conveys a definitive meaning to the reader, typically associated with reading and learning, education and entrepreneurship, and positive growth and development*. It was not until after I had fulfilled my goal of acquiring my doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Clark Atlanta University that I chose to complete and publish my works. This *inspoetation* compilation is designed to reach at the core of everyday messages that dad, granddad, and even uncle, choose to relay to their growing boy – a boy who will one day become a man. I am eternally thankful for both my parents, grandparents, uncles, and all those persons who helped me to become the person that I am today. And a special thanks to one uncle who dared to tell me of all his dumb mistakes in life so that I would not make them.

Enjoy reading this *Inspoetation* compilation which contains messages that resonate with positive male development – from being respectful and having good manners to educating and empowering yourself so that you become the self-sufficient, dignified independent, intelligent leaders that you were raised to be.

## TABLE OF INSPOETATIONS

IF IT'S TO BE

THE CHOSEN ROAD

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BOY AND A MAN

GRANDFATHER TO GRANDSON

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THE PERFECT ARTIST

TIME TO CHOOSE A CAREER

LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND

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TIME

KEEP YOUR HEAD UP

SUCCESS IN THIS WORLD

I WILL BE A LEADER

WHY EDUCATION?

a nation AT-RISK

TEACHER TO STUDENT

EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT

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## IF IT'S TO BE

If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
I've heard some people say.  
If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
These words help start my day.

If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
To chart out my life's course.  
If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
And I'll have no remorse.

If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
I alone must choose.  
If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
Whether I win or lose.

If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
I'll not let time run out.  
If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
I'll make each second count.

If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
I'll work real hard each day.  
If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
I'll make my actions pay.

If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
Yes, I will own this role.  
If it's to be,  
It's up to me –  
For I am in control.

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## CHARACTER AND CLASS

Don't just have character – have some class;  
Let all of your work show finesse.  
Make what you do the master's masterpiece.  
So the world has to say you're the best.

Don't just have character – have some class;  
Let it show through your genius of words,  
So that the world marvels whenever you speak,  
Of knowledge that's never been heard.

Don't just have character – have some class;  
Let your virtues and morals be true.  
In your aspirations keep the highest integrity,  
And the world will pay homage to you.

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## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BOY AND A MAN

Being a boy and being a man –  
There're differences between the two.  
Being the person you've been raised to be,  
Is the ultimate definition of you.

Dignity, respect, and responsibility,  
Should symbolize your name.  
And as you grow, and you age, and mature,  
Knowledge should be your top aim.

But knowledge alone doesn't make you a man,  
To apply it with virtue's the goal.  
You mustn't let knowledge make you too aloft;  
You must always maintain self-control.

You demonstrate that you're a man amongst men,  
When you value all life just like yours.  
When you learn to live, and you live to learn –  
True wisdom it does underscore.

For it's not about worldly things that you have;  
What's inside is what makes up your brand.  
It's the knowing the what, the how, the when,  
That separate a boy from a man.

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