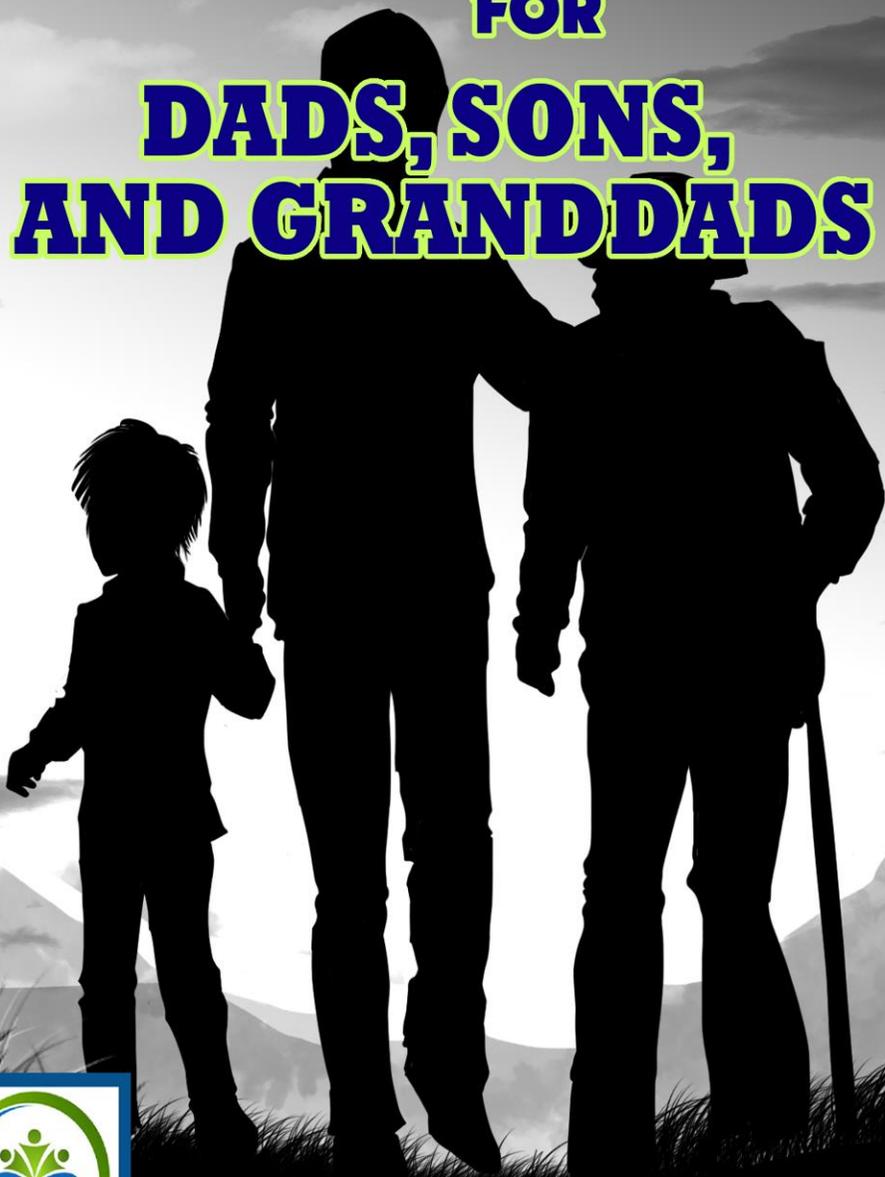


18 INSPIRATIONS FOR DADS, SONS, AND GRANDDADS



WRITTEN BY 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.

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A NATION AT RISK

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EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT

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Dr. Cleophas Jones

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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