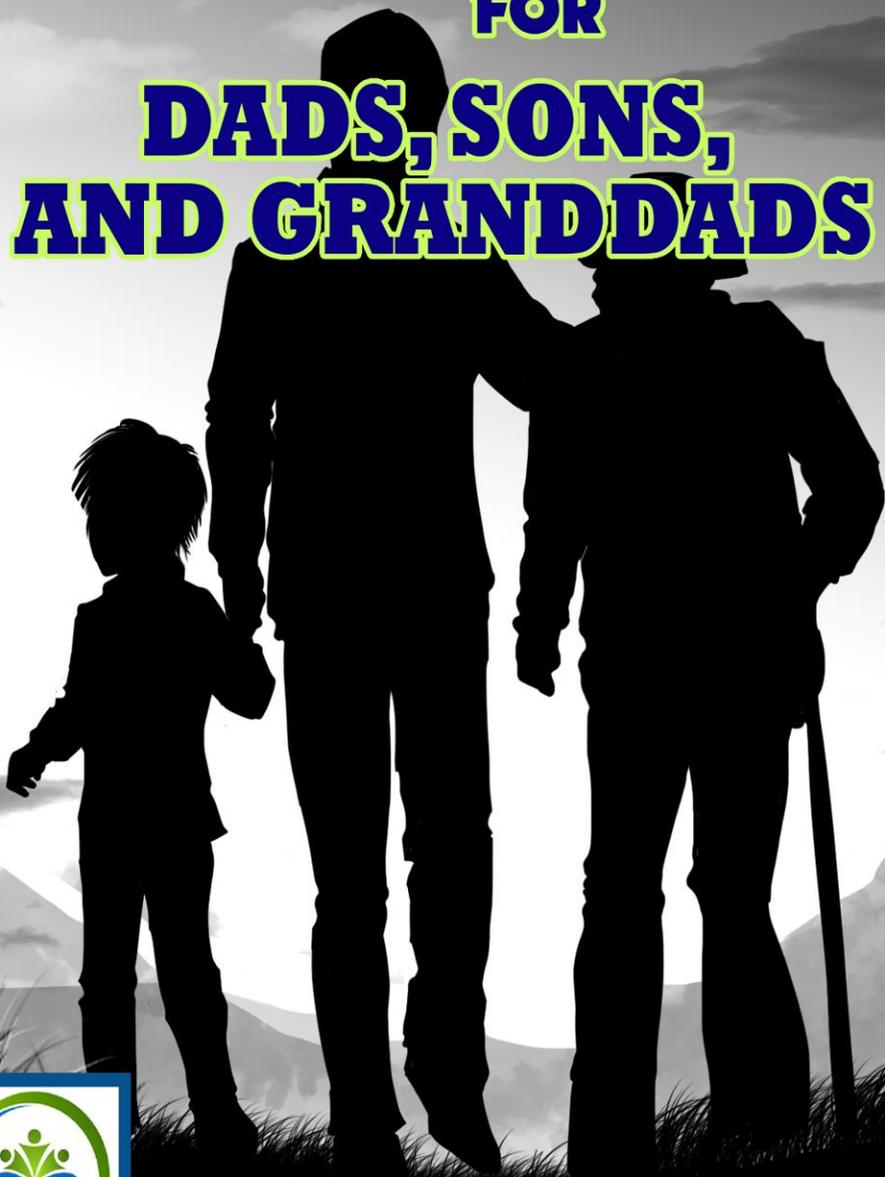


18 INSPIRATIONS FOR DADS, SONS, AND GRANDDADS



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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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BOY AND A MAN

Being a boy and being a man –
Much does separate the two.
Being the person you've been raised to be,
Is the ultimate definition of you.

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

But knowledge alone doesn't make you a man,
Apply it with virtue's the goal.
And you mustn't let knowledge get the better of you,
You must always maintain self-control.

You do yourself the greatest justice,
When you value all life like yours.
When you live to learn, and learn to live –
True wisdom it does underscore.

It's not the worldly things you have,
It's the intangibles that make up your brand.
It's the knowing the what, the how, the when,
That separate a boy from a man.

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