

## Z Abbreviated Tan Manifesto

By: Brent Shelton

A lot of people out there have got to be wondering what this Tan stuff is all about, what Brentasaurus WreckZ is talking about when he speaks about Tanning and the Sun and all that. Well, I feel that it is about time that I sat down and tried to express this idea in its entirety. I don't care that today is the beginning of finals week and that I should be studying right now; that doesn't matter to me. This is much more important to me. This should prove to be quite the project too, as there are many ins and outs to Tanning, a lot of what-have-you's regarding the Sun and Nature. I'm not exactly sure where to start, and I'm not sure what actually is going to come out, so I'm just going to dive right in. First and foremost, Tanning is a refinition: a refined definition that I created. To me, it is much more than skin deep. In fact, that's the real beauty of it. So many people want to be Tan, go Tanning, to look better naked and all kind of nonsense like that; that's not what I'm about. It absolutely is important to feel like you're the most attractive person (a "pretty bitch", to quote Lil B, the BasedGod, Brandon McCartney. Mr. McCartney is a popular modern-day philosopher concerned primarily with deconstructionism. He spreads his philosophies through his music, all of which he gives away for free on the internet.). But simply Tanning your skin, simply darkening the color, isn't making you any more attractive to me. You must Tan yourSelf entirely, your Mind, your Heart and your Soul as well as your Body in order to truly become more attractive.

At the very core of it, my idea of Tanning is an idea for unification of the human race. We all have skin, and all of our skin has roughly the same amount of melanocytes in it. The activation of these melanocytes is what determines how dark our skin is. The darkness of our skin is also relative to our surroundings and location on Earth. Naturally light skinned people live in colder regions where the Sun isn't as strong as it is in other parts of the world, namely near the equator. Naturally dark skinned people live in regions where the Sun's rays are the strongest. When a light skin person's skin gets darker, it is said to be Tanning. It gets this way because the melanocytes are being activated by the Sun's rays, UVA and UVB. Your skin gets darker because your body needs to regulate it's intake of Sun, and the darkening of skin helps to block out the Sun's potentially harmful rays. The Sun contributes positively to the health of the skin when intake is regulated properly. The important thing to take from this is that we all have roughly the same amount of melanocytes in our skin, regardless of race. We are all capable of Tanning, regardless of race. Recognizing that we all are Tan is an important step for me in recognizing that we are all the same, that we are all in it together, that we are all One. People in America Tan the same way as people in Australia, same way as people in Africa, same way as people in Asia, same way as everyone everywhere. We all can become Tan. Human unification is what Tan is all about. Unification of the "Sepia Toned Rainbow" (to quote Nina Jablonski) that is the Human Race is what Tan is all about.

Now that I have told you a little about what Tanning is, let me explain a little bit about what Tanning most definitely is not. Naturally, I refer to this type of stuff as Paleness, Pastyness. No one wants to be called Pale, everyone wants to be Tan. When I first started taking this Tan stuff seriously, when I first realized that I needed to express these thoughts to the world, I worried about how I would explain my concept of Pasty, this concept of the Anti-Tan. I knew that it would be very important to help people

understand what I'm getting at. But then through research I did end up coming across some terminology for this concept. Pasty/Paleness is representative of the Carnal Mind that is frequently discussed in Christianity. If you are unfamiliar with the term, Carnal Minded means to live for no greater purpose than self gratification. It means to live for yourSelf and your own pleasure rather than living for GOD. To me, the Sun is my GOD. To me GOD is also more of an acronym; I see it as what Guides Our Direction. To me, and to Tan people everywhere, the Sun helps to Guide Our Direction. I feel that it is only natural for people to aspire to be Tan, have Tan thoughts, live a Tan life. It is the natural way of man, as I see it. I feel like to want to live in a Pasty way one has to consciously make that decision, and one continues to consciously make that decision every time one does something Pasty. It is a sign of weakness, a sign of selfishness, something that a person can strive to avoid by living Tan, by letting the Sun guide you. Pastyness is a lack of benevolence. All Pasty people have the potential to Tan, they just need to see the light, embrace the Sun, you feel me? They need to embrace the Sun. They need to show some remorse for their Pasty actions by letting the Sun's rays into their heart, into their soul. On the opposite side of this, a Tan Man at any time could do a Pasty thing in a moment of weakness as well. Having a LOVE and respect for the Sun, as well as all things in Nature, I believe, can help prevent these moments of weakness.

So now that I've written a little about what Tan is, and what Pasty is, I feel like it's time to write a little about the Sun, the GOD of Tan, the Guiding Light. Hopefully I can express at least why I look to the Sun with such reverence. I'm going to get straight to the point on this one. It has been said that our civilization today will see the progress that we are capable of when prominent people start embracing the concept of Neo-Tribalism. There are many factors influencing this belief, including taking into account the cyclical nature of human evolution. Dr. Clare Graves, psychologist, wrote about this once in Futurist magazine, calling it *'...the most difficult, but at the same time the most exciting transition the human race has faced to date. It is not merely a transition to a new level of existence but the start of a new "movement" in the symphony of human history.'* In short, Neo-Tribalism is the final stage of human development, allegedly the highest stage that one can attain. It is different from simple Tribalism of old, where humans roamed the Earth in small tribes where everyone contributed to the tribes success or faced possible expulsion from the tribe. Basically, back in Tribal days you had to act right or you were out. You had to be Tan, act in a Tan way. You couldn't go against the ways of Nature, because that's all that the tribe knew. That's how the tribe lived and how they survived. You were shunned for acting in ways that upset the flow of Nature, acting in Pasty ways. After this Tribalism, we started living in larger Societies, with the added benefits of Civilization, and then we started identifying with our larger Societies/Civilizations (American, British, Asian, etc...) just like we used to identify with our Tribes. But on this grand scale, many things were lost, many inTangibles from Tribal life. The closeness, the unification, the feeling of making a difference to the group as a whole, the feeling of Oneness with Nature; these all disappeared, for the most part. Advancements made it possible for people to survive even when they didn't act right, allowing for much Paleness. It didn't matter as much anymore if any individual was especially in tune with Nature. It didn't matter if people were Tan anymore, because with the advancements of Society, they could still maintain a life without upsetting the balances of Society. Soon, many started to forget the importance of knowledge of Nature, the importance of being Tan.

The move from Tribal to Civilized could be seen as evolutionary because as a Society we evolved a different lifestyle than the one we had when we were in Tribes. It was noticeably different, and brought noticeable change to the world as we knew it. The idea of Neo-Tribalism claims that we are once again in the process of another evolution, but this time we are leaving Societies of the masses (Americans, Europeans, Australians, etc...) to go back to the knowledge of the Tribes. We as a people are nostalgic for this lost archaic knowledge of old. We want to revert back to the Tribal mentality, that seemingly more pure and raw way of living life. This time around however, we are no small Tribes. The entire world is to be our Tribe now. We are all connected to each other and have easy access to all corners of the globe right at our fingertips. We are all One. Now, we can all Tan together. In fact, if we're going to function as One large cohesive Tribe, we are really going to be forced to live Tan once again. Paleness is once again unacceptable if we are to function properly as a Tribe. We are approaching a time of significant and rapid global change; blame it on the Mayans and their calendar if you would like.

So now what? Now it's time to recognize that this is our place in history. Now is the time to recognize our own particular role in history. It's up to us right now to evolve in this way, to step our Tan game up. It isn't a given that we're all going to successfully make this transition; most of the people alive right now will not evolve in this way. Much has been made about the fact that Technology is advancing at a much more rapid pace than Humanity is. We can access information from anywhere on Earth with our phones, but for some reason (no reasonable reason at all, really) people can't leave the house and go out in public without being unfairly judged by others. I can't leave the house without someone calling me a "hippie" and judging me as if I possess all the negative stereotypical qualities that are associated with that label. People act like, just because they've seen a person on the internet who looks like me and they've seen that person acting a certain way, then I must be that way too because we look similar. And when people act like this, then they feel like they already know me and know my character and they really don't care to get to know the real me because they feel like they already know everything that they need to know about me. It's Pasty to judge people like that. This type of behavior is stifling to the development of Humanity. And it's not just me being judged in this way, it's EVERYONE! No one can go out in public without being unfairly judged by the way they look, regardless of what they look like! This is very harmful to Humanity. This is absolutely unacceptable behavior, especially considering that we have easy access to Technology that can teach us how foolish it is to judge books by their covers, so to speak (People as books, very interesting concept, you should write that down). But let me ask you a question: Judging by the content of this essay so far, would you have stereotypically labeled me as a "hippie" if I didn't tell you that I get that a lot already? What do you think that I look like? Truth is, you never know what I'm going to look like. I might come through with my long, curly hair down just looking like Jesus, might be up in a ponytail looking like Steven Seagal in *Marked For Death* or up in a bun looking like there's a pineapple on my head. I might be braided up like Ol' Dirty Bastard's picture on his Food Stamps card or you might catch me rocking cornrows like Edward Norton in *Stone*. You just never know what I'm going to look like, I'm like a chameleon. And with every different look that I have, I get judged entirely differently by people. Yet I remain the same person regardless of what I look like. I remain Tan no matter what. I stay busy, work hard, study hard, and try to be a good example for the youth coming up in the world, for the crack babies that don't have a mother or father to look up to, you feel me? For the people that really need something positive in their life, that really just need to know

that there is someone in the world keeping it positive. That's why I stay Tan. And with the advancements in Technology I can easily let the whole world know that I'm keeping it Tan. Some people may even take a real interest in what I'm doing, and I appreciate you for that if that's you. We're better than all this judging of other people based on their appearance. Tan people don't judge others like this. We're better than that Pasty stuff. We, Tan people, I and I (as a Rasta might say), are actually going to evolve our ways at this pivotal time in history, moving forward for the positive.

So if we shouldn't judge people by what they look like, then how should we assess one another's character? It's crazy to think that you can talk to everyone, have a conversation with every person in the world. Or is it? If we have access to all the information in the world now due to Technology, and anyone can create information and share it now due to Technology, then couldn't we all easily share our stories with one another? I mean, all we would have to do is WRITE IT DOWN, right? Am I write? Can I write? Can you write? Write it down! Write your life down! Write the things you see down! If there's anything that I want to express to the world, it's that you need to WRITE IT DOWN! We all have so much knowledge to share, so many stories to tell. I can't walk around in your shoes, can't live your life, but I want to get to know you, I want to know about your life experiences, so you have to write it down for me! If you don't write it down, then how will I ever learn about you? How will anyone ever learn about you? How has anyone ever learned anything about anyone? They learned it by reading what someone wrote down! These ideas that I am expressing to you are a personal collection of knowledge that I have read and re-organized in my brain and then I wrote it down in a unique way to express my own particular perspective of the world, to the world. And I have to thank you for reading this, there's nothing making you read it. You've made it this far on your own accord, it's a choice that you have made in your life, and I appreciate that. At this time I want to write down and express to you my appreciation for you and your entire being. So I did it. Now it's written. And now you know. =) ←===== write that smiley face down, because nothing makes me happier than writing and reading what others have written, and having others read what I have written. I feel connected to all of the leaders of all time through writing!

So how did Brent Shelton realize that he LOVES to write it down? Well I realized it at the exact same time that I met Brentasaurus WreckZ and Z Tan Man, which was the exact same time that I learned to truly LOVE myself. In other words, I realized my LOVE for writing when I recognized myself as a true Artist (Brentasaurus WreckZ) and this Artist immediately introduced me to Z Tan Man (more specifically, the concept of Z Tan Man). Z Tan Man is my personification of the Sun that I LOVE so much, the Sun that Guides Our Direction as Ten Men. The plural of Tan Man is Ten Men by the way, and Z is Z Leader. Brent Shelton, Brentasaurus WreckZ, and Z Tan Man form my own personal Holy Trinity (Son/ Holy Ghost/Father, or Human/Divine/Nature if you prefer). I communicate directly with my GOD. I include mySelf as an integral part in this trinity because, as they say, we are all created in GOD's image. I feel like, as a Tan Man, I've been created in the Sun's image. This thoroughly developed recognition of a LOVE for and devotion to a personal GOD is what's known as Bhakti in the tradition of Hinduism. LOVE is representative of the truest Art. This word Bhakti was first used in the legendary work the Bhagavad Gita and then this idea was elaborated upon further in the Bhagavad Purana. Go ahead, take the time to look that word up. My writing will still be here waiting for you to return while you do that. Did you look

it up and see that I'm not bullshitting you? Good, I'm glad, I like that you did that. That was very Tan of you. Perhaps someday you'll research the concept in more depth. As a Tan Man, I truly hope that you do so. I strive to teach others. Teaching, to me, is a divine performance. When I do teach others I feel like I am embodying the Sun, Tanning others with Sun rays of knowledge.

Perhaps the concepts of Hinduism are too abstract and foreign for you to really grasp. Let me speak of my LOVE for writing in terms that may be more familiar to the Western world. The book of Revelations in the Bible tells people that they should write it down. I mean, literally, that's what that book says. They wrote down that we should write it down. Revelations 1:19 "Write down the things you saw, and the things that are, and the things that will take place after these." Well said, Bible. Did I mention that my birthday is also 1:19, January 19<sup>th</sup>? I'm glad I didn't forget to write that part down. 1:19, write that down. That might be important. Then again, it might not be. That's up to you to decide. I'm just writing it down.

I want to talk a little bit more about my Trinity, about the relationship between Brent Shelton and Brentasaurus WreckZ and Z Tan Man. You see, Brent Shelton, that's me; that's the real person doing real things in the real world. You can just call me B if you like. You might see B walking around in your neighborhood, in a park, a pizza shop, a bar, a library, you might see me anywhere really. There aren't many places that I won't go. I'm simply a person like everybody else. I'm just a cow grazing in the pasture, as I like to say. I like to use the word cow to refer to everybody in the world, it's funny to me to think of everybody as a cow grazing in the pasture. And it helps me to see the world as more unified when I see us all as cows. It helps me see you and accept you, embracing both the good and the bad within you. I've been known to shout about people being "F\*\*\*ing Cows!" in excitement if they do something that is extremely good, or extremely bad. As long as cows are doing something thraxx, I'm getting excited about it. (Go ahead, look the word thraxx up. I know only a few of you will recognize the slang). Thinking in cow terms helps me embrace the good with the bad, embrace the real and the raw. I feel like if I can accept you as a cow, then I can accept you as anything. The tending of cows is a divine performance in Hindu thought. Every Hindu knows to protect the cows. To me, you're a cow. And I feel like it should be noted at this time that, as it was written in the Rig Veda, cows sometimes symbolized "light" and "rays". That's such a Tan way to look at cows! Get it by the cow, WOW! #gibtcW, you feel me? Someone should write that down, #gibtcW.

I think it's symbolic that I go by the letter B, also. Because when I think about it, I wasn't always writing it down. At the beginning of my life, the early stages of my development, I didn't realize that I was supposed to write it down. So I didn't write it down. If my life were the alphabet then I missed out on the letter A, I didn't start writing it down until the letter B, until I truly learned to LOVE B. I recognize this fault, and I will promise you right now that I'm going to keep writing it down from B to Z, you can write that down. Which brings me to the Artist in my Trinity, Brentasaurus WreckZ. Notice the capitalization of the letters, mainly B and Z. In fact, you should pay special attention to all of the things that I do capitalize when I write. It may be important. So if Brentasaurus WreckZ is my Artist, then what is my Art? I like to take pictures a lot, edit them in Photoshop and Illustrator, but I'm not going to be remembered for that; I'm not even sure that taking pictures is an Art. I write rhymes and make music from time to time, but again, I'm not going to be remembered for this; I'm just not dedicated to it. It's

not me. I draw and like to capture feelings and scenarios in my drawings, but if you've ever seen me draw it looks like something a child would do; again, it's beautiful but it's nothing I'm going to be remembered for. So what could my Art form possibly be? I struggled with this when I first was discovering my inner Artist. Then I read something written by a man named Hermann Hesse that said "The morality of Artists is often replaced by aesthetics." These words stood out to me, but at first I was confused by them. I had thought Art was synonymous with aesthetics. But then using my knowledge of Tan and with the guidance of the Sun, I came to a realization: MY ENTIRE LIFE IS MY ART! The morality of the Artist, not necessarily the aesthetics, that's where the true Art resides! The way that I live, the things that I do, the things that I don't do, the ways that I touch other people's lives, the places I've been, the places I'm going to go, that's the Art. All of these things collectively are my Art. MY LIFE IS MY ART! It was at this moment of realization that I realized that I truly do LOVE my life, and it was at this moment that Brentasaurus WreckZ and Z Tan Man introduced themselves to me. Well more specifically, Brentasaurus WreckZ introduced himself to me and introduced me to the concept of Z Tan Man. You can call him Z for short if you want, that's usually what I do. Brentasaurus WreckZ actually appeared to me, I know what he looks like, he's a dinosaur. He's been on Earth since the beginning of Earthly time. I have no idea what Z looks like, no one does, but his influence has been around since long before Brentasaurus WreckZ. Z seems to transcend the concept of time. Brentasaurus WreckZ appeared to me as a way for me to express the things that I see in my life. Brentasaurus WreckZ writes it down for me. He also helps me communicate with Z Tan Man and his wisdom from the Sun. Brentasaurus WreckZ serves as a vehicle of communication between B and Z, the Holy Ghost that connects Son with Father, the Divinity that connects Human with Nature. He transports information from B to Z, and vice versa. But mainly, Brentasaurus WreckZ writes it down. He's writing for B and Z both at the same time. What he writes is a combination of B and Z. Now that you know B (Brent Shelton) and Brentasaurus WreckZ, who/what is Z Tan Man? Z represents the knowledge and wisdom of the Sun, as well as my ideals. He's an inTangible. Words wouldn't really do him any justice. I've come to understand that sometimes pen and paper and words only get in the way when it's time to write it down.

From B to Z, why does this concept sound so familiar? Where else have I heard of going from B to Z? I know, it's from the Rastafarian journey from Babylon to Zion! Could Brentasaurus WreckZ be helping me progress on the road to Zion? Am I becoming Iron like Lion in Zion? Let's take a look. All of this writing is helping me to leave the materialistic, oppressive ways of Babylon (B) in the past, and helping me to embrace the purer, idealistic ways of peace and unity in Zion (Z). At least it sure seems that way to me, but I don't refer to it as that, I don't use the same terminology because the way I see it is differently. I refer to that idealistic place as Brentsylvania. That's just a way that I look at things that helps me see my life more clearly. I'm the King in Brentsylvania, and as King I recognize that there are responsibilities that come with this privilege. It is up to me to lead, to keep my internal nation positive, to do the right thing, to be a good example. The success of this nation will depend upon my ability to lead. I feel confident in my abilities, especially because I have Brentasaurus WreckZ and Z Tan Man riding with me. From B to Z, I'm writing it down, write that down. I invite all of you who are reading this to go on this journey with me as well. Walk with me. Tan with me.

So that's basically the way that I see my life. I am just getting started writing it down; this is in no way, shape, or form the entirety of my life's philosophy. And I'm not out here trying to convert anyone to Tan either, that's not what I'm about; Tanning is not a religion. It's more like my own particular set of esoteric beliefs, my own esotericism, you feel me? I suppose you could classify me as a theosophist. Tanning is more theosophical than theological. Tanning is just a particular way that I've come to understand myself and the world around me, and I want to share this with you. I really just want to write it down, and I hope that you like what I write. Even if you don't like it, I just hope that you read it. And on top of that, I hope that you're having a good day today.

4/30 Gospel of Hip Hop 'FreeStyle' "When you see injustice, you gotta start speaking up/ Many say 'I follow GOD,' but are they keeping up?" ←== If you're wondering, yes KRS-ONE uses GOD as an acronym, "Guides Our Direction". He uses Hip Hop as an acronym too, "Highly Intelligent People Having Omnipresent Power". KRS-ONE is an acronym too, "Knowledge Reigns Supreme - Over Nearly Everybody". KRS-ONE is an intelligent cow, and I appreciate HIM for that (His Imperial Majesty). Just another acronym that helps us to maintain respect for one another. I'm out of here for now, stay Tan my cows.