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## The Miseducation... of Me

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## The Miseducation... of Me

Ciara Houzell

I was 25 or so, when I ran into a documentary about Fred Hampton. He was 21 years old, uniting the black and brown of Chicago, which led to a rabbit hole. I found Huey P. and The Black Panther Party starting breakfast programs in the hood THAT WERE FREE! But to learn of their rise also means I had to learn about the FBI, and J. Edgar Hoover with all of their maneuvers put in place to successfully assassinate that man, (we're back on Fred Hampton), and it was only by GRACE that they didn't also eliminate his namesake! That was the first time I thought, *the government ain't shit*.

It was my late 20s that brought the knowledge of the REAL difference between Malcolm X and MLK. I had to be about 28 when I learned Malcolm really wasn't the bad guy, along with some other things I won't say because I don't want ANY problems with the NOI. \* Buuuut ALSO don't forget, the FBI... and Hoover, with their manipulations to speed up both Malcolm AND Martin's deterioration.

Again, I thought, *the government ain't shit*.

I'm in my 30s now. While attending a junior college in one of the most melanin challenge suburbs I'VE ever lived in, I learned about The Haitian Revolution! Which led to learning of the freed man from Haiti getting together with the slaves to overthrow the French FOR THE WIN! AND THAT is how I learned WHAT triggered the Louisiana Purchase, and the stuff with the Indigenous, which lead to the Trail of Tears, and THAT was a DIFFERENT type of suffering, AGAIN!! *The government REALLY ain't shit*.

30s again, and a show called *American Gods* that brought the knowledge of the Orishas from the western part of Africa. Because of my own curiosities, I've had to educate myself on deities like Shango, the god of thunder? Yet I was willingly fed stories of Zeus, Thor and Jupiter. It was me learning about Shango that led to the enlightenment of Osun, goddess of love, femininity, beauty, and fertility, yet as a kid, I couldn't stop hearing about Venus and Aphrodite. In school I heard the mythologies of Prometheus and Hermes, but not Anansi? I can't yet 100% pinpoint exactly how the government did that, but they did, and they ain't shit.

## January 6, 2024 Protest for Gaza - Police Line



Keith Yearman — Photograph

30s still. Speech class, same junior college, topic was the rise in costs of medicine. In my research I learned about insurance companies and patents, generic drugs, name brand drugs, and in the thick of it all, guess who kept popping up? The FDA, aka, THE GOVERNMENT. Which we know, ain't shit.

They're allowing the rewriting of histories, they're passing laws while not caring about our babies. They're using our kids for kickbacks to ensure their pockets stay fat, all the while making us think WE'RE the problem, but how is that? Moment of transparency: I struggled for weeks, trying to figure out how to wrap this up cleanly, but I just learned recently that the US government and the Supreme Court are currently attacking native sovereignty. To end this respectfully, I'd have to have some sort of understanding... I don't, because the government ain't shit.

\*NOI: Nation of Islam