

# Private vs Public

## Identity in Black Masculinity

—Visibility, vulnerability, and survival—

### Biodun Abudu



#### BACKGROUND

- Expectations of strength and control
  - Pressure to perform identity
- Divide between public and private self
- Impact on relationships and well-being



#### KEY INSIGHTS

- Dual identities for safety and acceptance
- Vulnerability limited to private spaces
- Public perception shapes behavior
  - Silence as a survival strategy



#### APPROACH

- Themes from *This Wasn't for the Public* and *Tales of My Skin*
- Lived experiences and observed social patterns across public and private spaces
- Cultural expectations of masculinity



#### DISCUSSION

- Identity separation reinforces isolation by limiting authentic self-expression
- Limits emotional expression, particularly in public-facing environments
- Affects relationships and long-term mental well-being



#### FOCUS AREAS

- Identity performance
- Emotional suppression
- Public vs private behavior

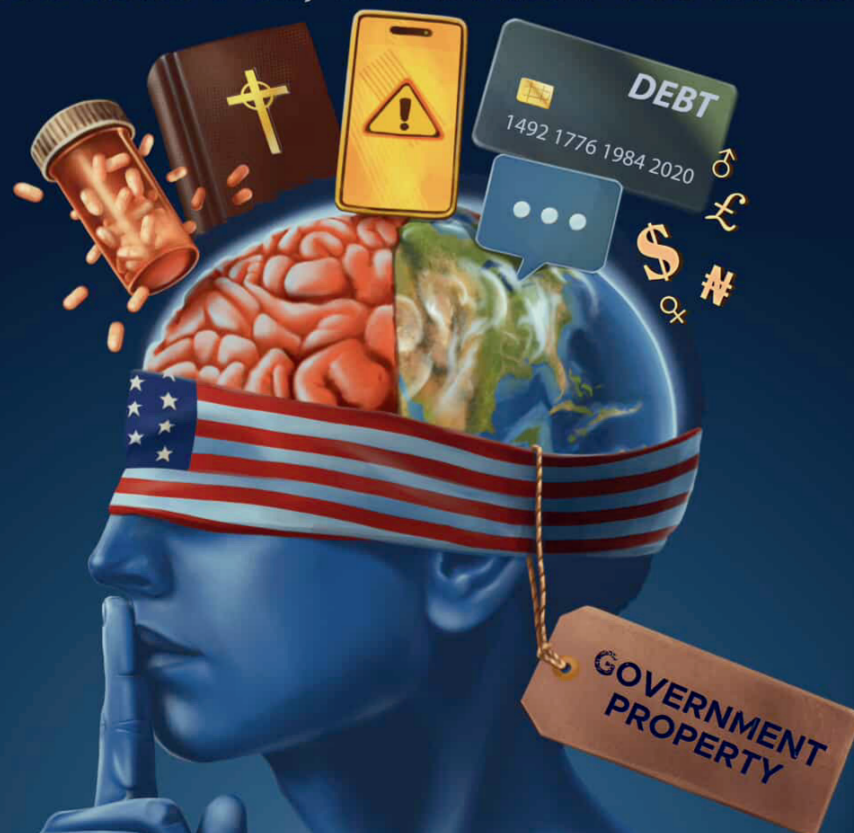


#### RAISES QUESTIONS

- Visibility vs protection in navigating public identity
- Authenticity vs expectation within cultural norms

#### THIS WASN'T FOR THE PUBLIC

*If You Read This, You'll Know Too Much.*



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#### CONCLUSION

- Expand conversations on Black masculinity
  - Challenge restrictive norms
- Create space for authentic expression

*This Wasn't for the Public & Tales of My Skin*  
— Biodun Abudu

Thank you to those whose stories  
continue to shape this work.

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#### TALES OF MY SKIN



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