

**Ta-Nehisi Coates Book *Between the World and Me***

Reflections on growing up in West Baltimore

Great examples of code of the streets, adaptive behavior vs. internalized norms, etc.

Page 22- “The streets transform every ordinary day into a series of trick questions, and every incorrect answer risks a beat down, a shooting, or a pregnancy. No one survives unscathed. And yet the heat that springs from the constant danger, from a lifestyle of near-death experience, is thrilling.”

Page 23- “To survive the neighborhoods and shield my body, I **learned another language** consisting of a basic complement of head nod and handshakes. I memorized a list of prohibited blocks. I learned the smell of fighting weather...I recall learning these laws clearer than learning my colors and shapes, because these laws were essential to the security of my body.”

Page 24- “...when I was about your age (referring to his 16 year old son), each day, each day, fully one-third of my brain was concerned with who I was walking to school with, our precise number, the manner of our walk, the number of times I smiled, who or what I smiled at, who offered a pound and who did not—all of which is to say that I practiced the **culture of the streets**, a culture concerned chiefly with securing the body.”

Page 25- “Fail to comprehend the streets and you gave up your body now.”

Page 27- “The fearless boys and girls who could knuckle up, call on cousins and crews, and, if it came to it, pull guns **seemed to have mastered the streets.**”

Page 90- “In those days, I would come out of the house... (When his son was a child and they were growing up in New York City. Reflecting on walking in certain neighborhoods)

Page 95- “Even when I was young and adopted the **rules of the street**, anyone who knew me knew it was a bad fit.” = Great example of **adaptive behavior vs. internalized norms**

Page 125- “I am wounded. I am **marked by old codes**, which shielded me in one world and then chained me in the next.”

Page 126- “Even in Paris, I could not shake the old ways, the instinct to watch my back at every pass, and always be ready to go.”