Written by Robert ID736 Thursday, 20 January 2005 09:40 -

Long awaited and much anticipated, THE WU-TANG MANUAL (Riverhead Freestyle Trade Paperback Original; February 2005; \$16.00) is finally here. Delayed in the final stages of production by the tragic death of rap artist Ol" Dirty Bastard, THE WU-TANG MANUAL ¡X which has been referred to repeatedly on Wu-Tang albums, from "Bells of War¡" (Wu-Tang Forever) to GZA's Liquid Swords -- is RZA's first written introduction to the philosophy and history of the Wu-Tang Clan.

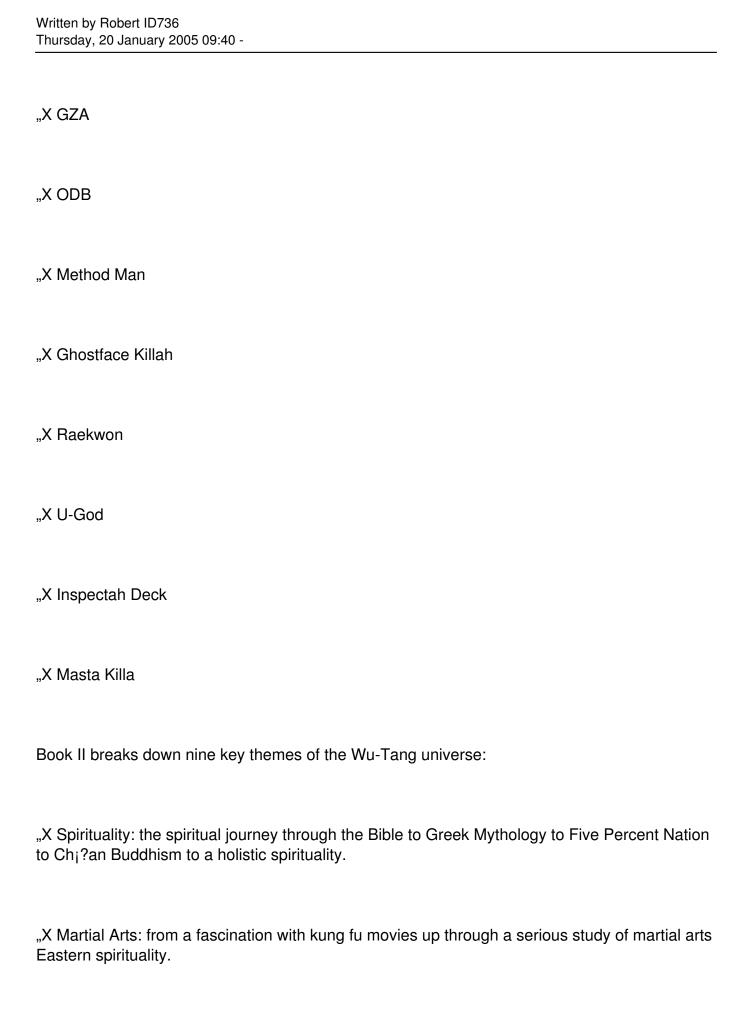
Since the release of the revolutionary Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers) -- over the course of four seminal group albums and a multitude of ambitious side projects -- the Wu-Tang Clan has constantly redefined what hip-hop can do and where hip-hop can go. Now, after a decade of dark beats and mysterious lyrics hinting at a larger whole, the RZA, the abbot of the legendary Staten Island hip-hop collective, fully reveals, for the first time, the complex, multilayered Wu-Tang Universe in THE WU-TANG MANUAL.

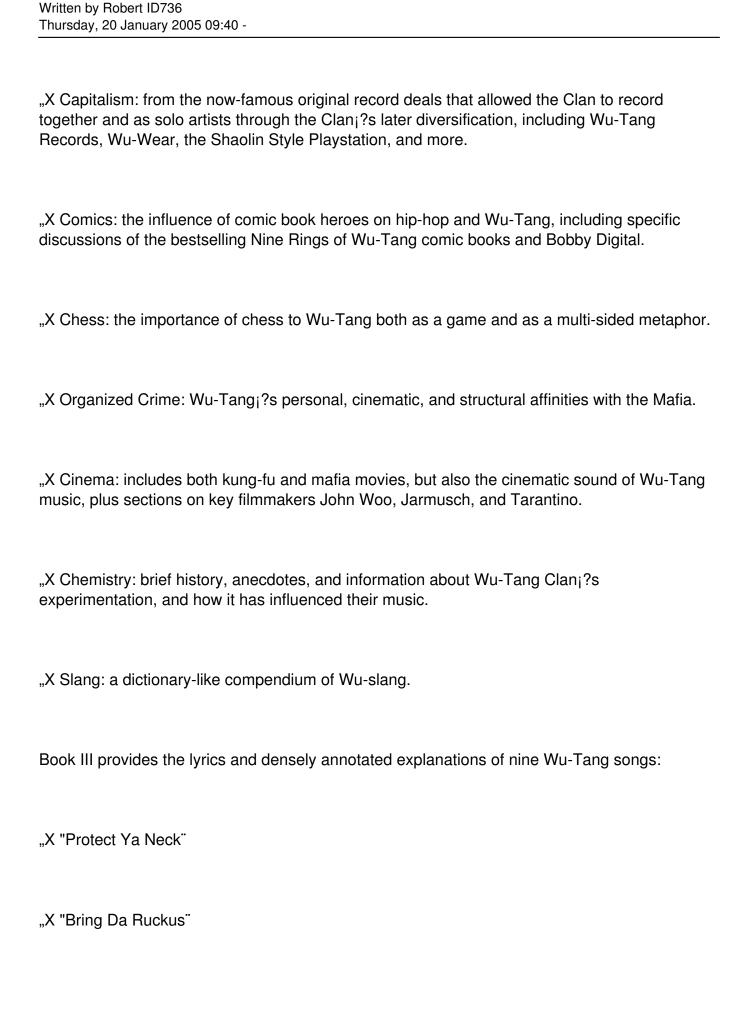
At the creative forefront of music for the past decade, the Wu-Tang Clan are hip-hop;?s true artists, shrouded in a fascinating self-made mythology. Taking their name from a mythical kung-fu sword wielded by a congregation of invincible warriors, rechristening their native island after the legendary Shaolin, and performing under a variety of pseudonyms, the nine members of the Wu-Tang Clan have, from the start, surrounded their public identities with an elaborate Wu-Tang Mythology and Cosmology that forms the foundation for all their work. Written in a style that is at once personal and philosophical, THE WU-TANG MANUAL unravels the intricate web of personalities (and alter egos), warrior codes, numerological systems, and Eastern spiritual ethics that define the Wu-Tang dynasty.

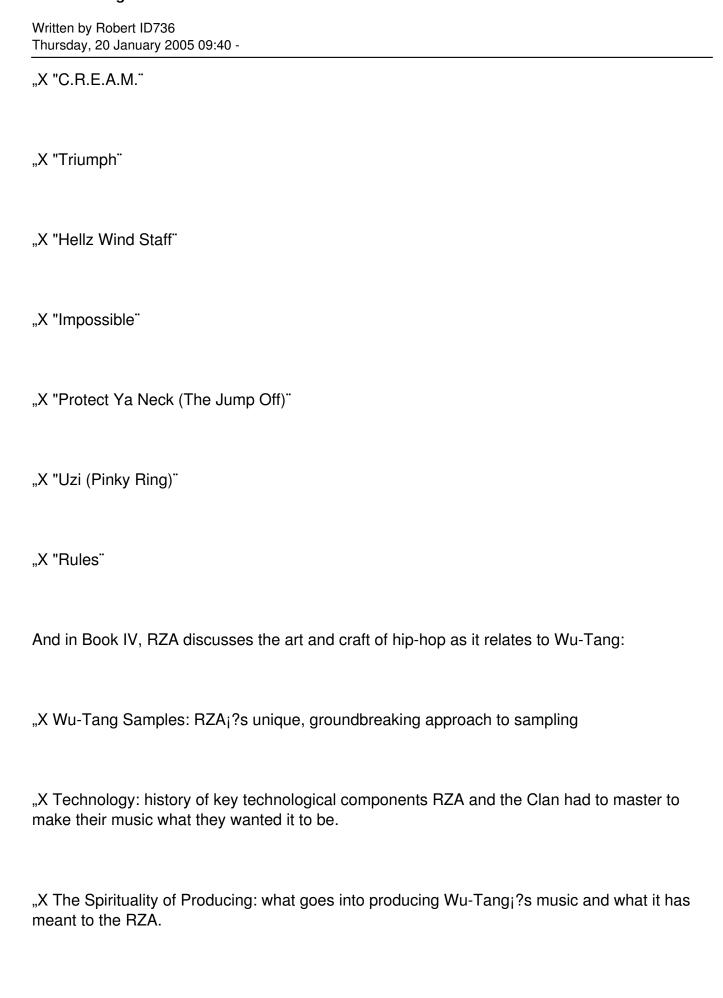
Packed with information that reflects the breadth and depth of the RZA's -- and rest of the Clan's -- intellectual interests and passions, THE WU-TANG MANUAL is divided into four books of nine chambers each, for a total of 36 chambers. All together, the book provides the breakdown of essential Wu-Tang components.

Book I provides basic information, backstory, and a complete list of alter egos for each of the nine core members of Wu-Tang Clan:

"X RZA







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"X Voices as Instruments: how the nine members of Wu-Tang Clan function like a symphony, with each member playing an instrumental role

"X The Art of Rhyme: a discussion of Wu-Tang lyric-writing, with key contributions from GZA and U-God.

"X Live Performances: a brief history of the importance and the sensibility of Wu-Tang performances, up through their recent show in Los Angeles.

"X The Way of the Abbot: RZA on his role at the center of the Wu-Tang Clan

"X Wuman Resources: the career management behind the Wu-Tang Clan and the solo careers of the individual members

"X The Saga Continues: The future of Wu-Tang...

Elegantly laid-out and richly printed, the book is designed to reflect the Asian influence on the Wu-Tang universe, which, as the book explains, began with a fascination with kung-fu movies but quickly led to serious study of martial arts and Eastern philosophy and spirituality. The Book also includes a map of Shaolin; a trove of never-before-seen photos of the Wu-Tang Clan, including shots of RZAi?s trip to China with Sifu Shi Yan-Ming, live shots, and portraits-by Michael Lavine, Craig Wetherby, Sophia Chang, and Frank151; and original illustrations of many of the guiding lights of the Wu-Tang universe.

Before the death of ODB, the Wu-Tang Clan had recently played their first two group shows in years, one in Los Angeles and one in New York. They recently released a live album and DVD, Disciples of the 36 Chambers, and a Greatest Hits collection, Legend of the Wu-Tang Clan.

For the hardcore Wu-Tang disciple and the recent initiate alike, THE WU-TANG MANUAL is the definitive guide to the essence of Wu, one of the most innovative hip-hop groups of all time.

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The saga continues...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR The RZA is the Abbott of The Wu-Tang Clan, the multi-platinum-selling hip-hop group whose nine members have also released a number of platinum-selling solo albums. RZA is famous as a producer, rapper, and lyricist, and also for his recent working scoring movies;Xnotably Kill Bill.

THE WU-TANG MANUAL by The RZA Riverhead Trade Paperback Original; February 2005; \$16.00 ISBN: 1-59448-018-4 Visit us on the web at www.riverheadboo ks.com