
LIONS DON'T BOW

THE
MASCULINITY
AUDIT

What male animals do that most men will not

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A FREE BOOK

THE MASCULINITY AUDIT

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FOREWORD

BEFORE THE FLOOR

Why we are going to the wild

In the beginning God made the male of every species. He gave the lion his mane. He gave the eagle his sky. He gave the wolf his pack. And to the man, the only male formed in His own image, He gave a garden, a wife, and a charge to guard them both.

Every male animal on this planet still knows what he is. The lion did not forget. The wolf did not forget. The buffalo did not forget. They live the design God breathed into them on the sixth day, and they live it without apology, without permission, and without a podcast.

Man forgot.

Man, the one creature commanded to subdue the earth, lead a household, protect the weak, and lay down his life like Christ, is now the only male on earth who needs to be coached on how to be one.

This book is a mirror with ten panels. Each chapter walks through one role the male of the species fills by sheer instinct. Then it lays

that instinct beside the modern man, and beside the Word of the living God.

The wild is not our standard. Christ is our standard. But the wild is the floor God set on the sixth day, and most men have fallen beneath it. You cannot rise to the image of the Son if you have not even risen to the image of the lion.

STAND UP.
WE ARE GOING HUNTING.

CHAPTER ONE

THE SOVEREIGN

He owns his ground

The tiger patrols forty square miles alone. He shares it with no other male. Cross the line and you fight or you leave.

The grizzly does not ask if you would prefer he sit somewhere else. He sits where he wants. The rest of the forest works around him.

The bald eagle owns miles of sky. There is no negotiation about air-space.

The wolf alpha marks his territory and patrols it daily. Every paw print says one word. Mine.

This was the first command God ever gave a man.

“Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion.”

GENESIS 1:28

Subdue. Dominion. God did not hand Adam a garden and tell him to negotiate with the weeds. He told him to rule it. To *shamar* it. The Hebrew word means to guard, to keep, to defend with vigilance. Adam was both gardener and gatekeeper. Tender of life on the inside. Wall against death on the outside.

The tiger still remembers. Adam's sons forgot.



The modern man apologizes for taking up space on the subway. He gets steamrolled in meetings by people who do not outwork him, just outvoice him. He has no domain. No land. No business he is actually leading. No household where his word is the final word under God. He rents his life and pays the bill on time.

He has not subdued anything, including himself.

**A MAN WITHOUT GROUND IS NOT A MAN YET. HE
IS STILL WAITING FOR HIS GARDEN.**

CHAPTER TWO

THE THRONE EARNED

He fights for his place

The lion does not inherit a pride. He takes it. He challenges the dominant male and wins, or he dies, or he wanders. There is no participation trophy on the savanna.

The bull elk crashes antlers against a rival until one of them breaks or backs down.

The bighorn ram runs headlong at forty miles an hour into another skull. The crack echoes off the canyon walls. Whoever is still standing breeds.

The silverback gorilla beats his chest, charges, and fights when challenged. The troop follows the strongest, not the kindest.

The bull elephant in musth seeks out other bulls and clashes. Rank is set by combat, not committee.

Scripture never apologizes for this either.

David ran toward Goliath. Jacob wrestled the Angel until dawn and would not let go without a blessing. Paul described the Christian life as a fight, a race, a contest.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

2 TIMOTHY 4:7

Paul did not say he attended the fight. He fought it. The crown is real, but it is taken, not given.

* * *

The modern man avoids competition. He calls it toxic. He settles for last picked because he never tried out. He wants the corner office without the war for it. He wants the woman without the work for her. He wants respect he has not earned and a kingdom he has not fought for.

**HEAVEN HANDS NO MAN A THRONE HE REFUSED
TO CLIMB.**

CHAPTER THREE

THE UNYIELDING

He will not run

The honey badger picks fights with lions. With king cobras. With anything. He has been filmed driving leopards off their kills. He does not measure the odds. He just goes.

The Cape buffalo turns toward the lion. A wounded buffalo will track its attacker for miles to settle the score. They call him the Black Death for a reason.

The wolverine, thirty pounds of bad attitude, has been documented running grizzlies and full wolf packs off carcasses. Pure intent. No bluff.

The musk ox forms a wall. Bulls on the outside, calves on the inside. They face the wolves head on, and they do not break.

This is the posture God commanded for His soldiers.

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore.”

EPHESIANS 6:13-14

Three commands in two verses. Stand. Stand. Stand. Jesus Himself set His face like flint toward Jerusalem when He knew what waited there. He did not flinch. He did not negotiate. He walked into the cross with His jaw set.

* * *

The modern man takes the long way around to avoid conflict. He calls retreat self care. He lets his wife absorb hits he should be taking. He disappears at the first sign of resistance and tells himself he is the bigger man for it.

A BUFFALO WOULD BE ASHAMED OF HIM. CHRIST STANDS WAITING FOR HIM TO TURN AROUND.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE PROVIDER

His family eats because he hunts

The wolf drags the kill miles back to the den. He eats last. The pups eat first.

The eagle hunts continuously through nesting season. The eaglets do not know hunger because he does not rest.

The beaver does not just live in the lodge. He built the lodge. Felled the trees. Dammed the river. Engineered the home. His mate raises young inside what his hands made.

The fox brings rabbits, mice, and birds to the vixen and the kits. He runs himself ragged. He does not quit.

God spoke about this with no soft edges.

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

1 TIMOTHY 5:8

Worse than an unbeliever. Read that again. The Spirit, through Paul, says a man who refuses to provide stands in worse company than someone who has never even heard of Christ. That is how seriously Heaven takes a man's hands and his back and his hours.

* * *

The modern man splits the bill. He lets his wife carry equal financial weight while he funds his hobbies. He feels trapped by the duty to provide and calls the trap unfair.

**THE WOLF WOULD NOT LAST A SEASON WITH
THAT ATTITUDE. THE LORD WOULD NOT CALL HIM
A MAN.**

CHAPTER FIVE

THE FATHER

Present, persistent, unflinching

The emperor penguin stands on Antarctic ice for two months through winds that scream at a hundred miles an hour and temperatures of forty below. He holds the single egg on his feet. He does not eat. He loses half his body weight. He does not move. His mate returns to a living chick because he refused to drop it.

The wolf father plays with his pups, teaches them to hunt, regurgitates food for them, defends the den with his life.

The silverback lets infants climb on his shoulders. He breaks up their squabbles. He grieves when they die.

The seahorse literally carries the young to term. The male.

God expected no less from a human father.

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

EPHESIANS 6:4

Bring them up. Not pay for them. Not visit them. Bring them up. The Greek word *ektrepho* means to nourish, to rear to maturity, to feed body and soul until the child stands as a whole adult. That is years of presence. Years of teaching. Years of standing on the ice.

* * *

The modern man does weekends and every other holiday. He treats fatherhood as a hobby. He sees his children's pain and outsources the response to a therapist, a school counselor, a screen, an algorithm.

**THE PENGUIN WOULD NOT PUT DOWN THE EGG.
NEITHER WOULD CHRIST. NEITHER SHOULD YOU.**

CHAPTER SIX

THE LOYAL MATE

One woman, one lifetime

The bald eagle pairs for life. They build the same nest, year after year, decade after decade, adding to it until it weighs over a ton.

The wolf is monogamous. The alpha pair leads the pack together. He does not roam.

The albatross spends fifty years with one mate. Crosses oceans. Comes home to her.

The swan mourns when she dies. Some never pair again.

The gibbon sings duets with his mate every morning at the top of the canopy. The whole forest hears it.

God designed the covenant before the fall.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

GENESIS 2:24

One flesh. Not roommates. Not contractually compatible. One flesh, knit by God, separable only at the cost of tearing living tissue. And when the men of Israel began trading wives like livestock, the prophet thundered:

“Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.”

MALACHI 2:14-15

* * *

The modern man has three apps open at once. He hedges bets. He trades up. He calls inconstancy keeping his options open. He cannot promise tomorrow because he has not decided about today.

**THE ALBATROSS WOULD SHAME HIM. THE LORD
CALLED THE PROPHET TO REBUKE HIM.**

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE WATCHMAN

He stands between threat and family

The bull elephant positions himself between the threat and the herd. Always. The matriarchs lead. The bulls guard the rear and the flanks.

The Cape buffalo bulls form a horned perimeter around the calves and cows. The lions know that wall. The lions test that wall. The lions usually leave hungry.

The meerkat sentry stands tall on the highest rock while the rest of the mob feeds. He does not eat until someone relieves him.

The wolf scouts ahead of the pack. He sees the danger first because he goes first.

This is the watchman's office, and God built it into the bones of every righteous man.

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me.”

EZEKIEL 33:7

Nehemiah armed his men with a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other. They built and they watched. The two cannot be separated. A man who is only building is half a man. A man who is only watching is the other half. The whole man does both.

“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.”

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

* * *

The modern man does not know the names of his neighbors. He could not describe the threats facing his children. He has no defensive plan, no situational awareness, no readiness. He runs on autopilot until something breaks, then panics.

A MEERKAT KEEPS BETTER WATCH. A PASTOR IN BABYLON KEPT BETTER WATCH. THE LORD IS STILL CALLING WATCHMEN.

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE DISPLAY

He does not hide what he is

The peacock does not apologize for the tail. He fans it. He shakes it. He wants it seen.

The bird of paradise dances elaborately in the rainforest understory, sometimes for hours, for a single watching female. He commits.

The sage grouse struts the lek at dawn, chest inflated, tail fanned, while every other male does the same. The fittest is chosen. The rest go home.

The mandrill wears electric blue and red on his face. It is a billboard. I am healthy. I am dominant. I am here.

Jesus said the same thing about His followers, only louder.

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:14, 16

Christ never asked you to dim. He did the opposite. He commanded you to shine so that the room cannot ignore you, then to hand the credit upward to the Father. Strength that points to God is not arrogance. It is obedience.

* * *

The modern man dims himself. He apologizes for being male. He wears the gray of someone who hopes you do not look. He has been told confidence is arrogance, leadership is toxicity, and strength is fragility, and he has believed it.

**THE PEACOCK WOULD NOT HIDE. JESUS SAID
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO.**

CHAPTER NINE

THE LONE HUNTER

He functions without an audience

The tiger hunts alone. Lives alone. Dies alone. He is not lonely. He is sovereign.

The leopard drags a kill twice his weight up a tree by himself. No witness. No applause.

The cougar crosses a range of two hundred miles without a single ally.

The eagle soars at altitudes nothing else reaches. There is no one to see.

This is also where Christ went to be reforged.

“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.”

MARK 1:35

The Son of God, with crowds clamoring at the door, walked away from the audience to be alone with the Father. He did this constantly. Before choosing the twelve. Before the cross. In the garden. On the mountain. Christ had the strongest interior life of any man who ever lived precisely because He spent so much of it where no one could see Him.

A man who can only function in front of an audience has no interior at all. He is a stage with no actor.

* * *

The modern man cannot eat alone, walk alone, or sit in silence for ten minutes. He posts every meal, every workout, every thought for validation. He has confused being seen with being.

**THE EAGLE DOES NOT NEED AN AUDIENCE.
CHRIST COMMANDED YOU TO LEAVE YOURS.**

CHAPTER TEN

THE STRATEGIST

He has a plan

The wolf alpha runs coordinated hunts. Drivers. Chasers. Ambushers. Every member knows the role. Every kill is a plan executed.

The orca pod beaches itself intentionally to grab seal pups, then waits for the wave to wash it back into the surf. Taught generation to generation. The pod has tradecraft.

The lion coalition, brothers or sworn allies, patrols territory in formation. They know where the rival males are. They strike together.

Wisdom is the spine of masculine leadership, and Scripture says so without flinching.

“A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.”

PROVERBS 22:3

“Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?”

LUKE 14:31

Jesus assumed His followers were the kind of men who counted before they fought. Nehemiah surveyed the broken walls of Jerusalem at night before he ever announced the rebuild. David refused Saul's armor because he had a better plan. Joseph stockpiled grain for seven years before the famine arrived.

The Spirit of God moves in fire, but the men of God move with foresight.

* * *

The modern man reacts. Drifts. He has no five year plan, no battle plan, no spiritual plan, no plan for what to do when his wife is hurting or his son is bleeding or his nation is burning. Tomorrow happens to him.

THE WOLF HAS A PLAN. THE LORD TOLD YOU TO HAVE ONE.

CLOSING

THE HIGHER CALL

Past the lion, into the image of the Son

The lion does what God made him do. So does the wolf. So does the eagle. They keep the floor He set for them on the sixth day, and they keep it without coaching.

You are not a lion. You are a son of the Most High God, made in His image, called to a higher floor and a higher ceiling than any beast on earth.

Christ is the ceiling.

He fought, but He fought to save. He owned ground, but He bought it with His blood. He hunted, but the lost were His prey. He stood watchman, but His shield was His own body on a cross. He provided, and the meal He served was His flesh and His blood. He was loyal, and His bride is the Church.

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

EPHESIANS 5:25

That is the call. Not to become an animal. To become a man at least as faithful to his nature as the lion is to his, then to climb past the lion into the image of the Son.

* * *

You cannot rise to Christ if you have not even risen to the wolf.

You cannot lead like a King if you cannot stand like a buffalo.

You cannot love like a Savior if you cannot hold like a penguin on the ice.

STAND UP.

LIONS DON'T BOW.

Sons of God do not either.

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