ENTER THE WU-TANG (36 CHAMBERS) REVIEW BY ALYSE AHMIDE

TODAY’S MATHEMATICS:
WITH MOST OF THE WU GROWING UP IN THE PROJECTS OF STATEN ISLAND, IT'S SAFE TO SAY THEY ALL GREW EXPERIENCING THE SAME KIND OF STRUGGLES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY, WHETHER IT BE EXPERIENCING RACISM AS KIDS OR HAVING TO SELL CRACK COCAINE ON THE BLOCK SO AS TO MAKE SOME KIND OF INCOME. IT EVEN LED TO SOME OF THE WU MEMBERS EITHER GETTING INCARCERATED SO THEY ALL LOOKED TO MUSIC AS A WAY TO MAKE IT OUT OF THE PROJECTS FOR THEY ALL VIEWED IT AS BEING ORGANIZED IN A WAY THAT PREVENTED YOU FROM LEAVING. SO IN A WAY THEY ALL FELT TRAPPED IN THE HOOD AND BEING A PART OF THE WU-TANG WAS THEIR WAY OUT.

FROM THE SLUMS OF STATEN ISLAND
SOUL MUSIC AND MARTIAL ARTS—GROWING UP IN THE CRACK-ERA OF NEW YORK CITY SOUL MUSIC FROM THE 60’S-70S WAS PRETTY MUCH THE SOUNDTRACK OF MOST OF THESE GUYS’ CHILDHOOD WHETHER IT BE FROM WHAT THEIR PARENTS PLAYED OR WHAT THEY FOUND FOR THEMSELVES AS HIP HOP WAS JUST FINDING ITS FOOTING AROUND THAT TIME. MEMBERS LIKE ODB WHO WERE REALLY FANS OF MUSICIANS LIKE MARVIN GAYE AND OTIS REDDING AND ALSO HAVING A MOM AS A SINGER AND THEN YOU ALSO HAVE OTHERS SUCH AS MASTA KILLA WHO ALSO HAS A PARENT AS A SINGER AS WELL AS BEING DISTANT RELATIVES OF MARVIN GAYE AND NAT TURNER SO IT’S SAFE TO SAY THAT MUSIC WAS ALWAYS APART OF THEM.

KUNG FU FILMS—NOW ALTHOUGH SOUL SAMPLES AND MUSIC WAS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THIS ALBUM, IT WAS MAINLY THE MOVIE CLIPS THAT GRAVITATED WITH THE AUDIENCE AT LEAST TO ME. FROM THE ALBUM NAME TO GHOSTFACE & MASTA KILLA BEING NAMED AFTER KUNG FU FILMS AND CHARACTERS IN THESE FILMS, IT’S NO SURPRISE THAT THE WU WAS HEAVILY INFLUENCED AND INSPIRED BY THESE FILM. IT’S ALSO BECAUSE OF THESE MOVIES THAT THEY STARTED TO REGARD THEIR TONGUE AS A SWORD AND HOW IF YOU WERE TRULY A LYRICIST THEN YOU HAD TO BE USING THE WU TANG SWORD.
RZA'S FIVE YEAR PLAN

After the critical success of Enter the Wu-Tang album, the Wu wasn't done there as RZA had a plan that would help launch most of their solo careers within the first 3-5 years while all on different record labels. The production for the first wave of the groups solo albums were usually done by RZA and within this time period albums like Tical by Method Man, Return to the 36 chambers the Dirty Version by ODB, Raekwon's Only Built for Cuban Linx, Liquid Swords By GZA, and Ironman by Ghostface Killah was all released around that time which are usually all considered classics for the most part. During the latter years of the decade they were still as consistent putting out their second project as a group as well as other members putting out solo project's. This run by the clan not only solidified them as an all-time great group but also legendary MC's individually as well.
Throughout the years I don’t believe the Wu-Tang’s influence has been more apparent than in this decade of the 2010s. Following this album marking 25 years since it’s release, the Wu-Tang’s brand has continued to grow as they’ve gotten a documentary “Wu-Tang Clan: Of Mics Of Men” which is where I got most of my information from as I never paid that much attention to most of the information concerning this album as well as the clan altogether. It’s even led to a show being based off their early lives “Wu Tang: An American Saga. With the groups influence it’s even led to New York based rappers forming groups of their own such as Pro Era in Brooklyn and A$AP Mob. All in all With Enter the Wu-Tang Album it ended up not only being one of the best body of works of all time and launched several successful solo careers, it’s also changed the hip hop culture and will continue to remain timeless for years and decades to come.