

THE STONE ROSES WAR AND PEACE

THE DEFINITIVE STORY. 70 NEW INTERVIEWS. 40 UNSEEN PHOTOS

Geno Washington – Soul sensation and life coach

Unedited interview transcript

I was doing a gig at Manchester University. We were staying over the night and I just didn't just want to go back to the hotel straight away, you know how that is. I was signing some autographs in the back and someone was telling me about this party that was going on, would I like to come? I said, yeah, man. I went to the party and I didn't really know anybody. I'm in there and the party was jumping but I really wanted a joint instead of just drinking the booze. A nice joint would have made it super good for me, I would have been quite happy.

I got to talking to a bunch over in the corner which was Ian Brown and another couple of guys standing in the corner bullshitting and everything. So I joined them and I got into bullshitting and everything. Then I kept seeing these girls looking at Ian. They're coming up and talking to him. They all liked him. But Ian's just a normal guy; he's not in show business. He's laughing with the girls, saying, hey, hi, how's it going, but he isn't trying to pull, he's just over here talking with his mates.

So I said to him, yeah, looks like you got a lot of action going on. He said, nah, man, I'm just hanging around. So I said, hey look, just to make this shit great, have you got any friends that could bring over some smoke? I'll pay for the shit y'know. He said, Yeah, I got some friends, I'll give them a call. He'll be over here right away. I said, really? He said, Yeah, man. So he called up his friend and this friend came over about 20 minutes later. He had some good shit too. So I was on the good foot, I felt like I had had more glide in my stride, I had some loot in my flute.

So Ian had done this favour for me. And when someone is nice to me, kind to me, I try and give them something back if I can. I'm standing with the guy, I'm feeling high now, really good, got my mojo going and everything, and here's a guy; he's got great personality, got the looks, girls are going crazy over him and of course he's ignoring them but they're going crazy over him. So I said, Look man, you ought to be a pop star, you ought to go into the pop business. I said, You sing? He said, No, I don't sing. I said do you write songs? He said, No, I don't write songs either. Goddamn, I said, look when you was in school did you write poetry or some kind of shit like that? He said, Yeah I wrote a little bit of poetry.

I said, Well look, listen, because I'm being very serious with you now. Ian, if you write poetry that's only one inch from writing songs. If you can write poetry baby, you can write songs and that's where the pie is in the music business. Now, You've got the looks, you got the personality, all you need to do is learn how to sing and write your own goddamn songs and you going to be cooking with gas,

man. He looked at me and said, Really? You think so? I said, I'm telling you the truth. I'm not bullshitting you. You went and got me the joint and all that so I'm trying to help you and tell you a secret that you don't really know that you have. You got the looks, you got the personality, people love you, you're like a goddamn magnet. All you got to do is start writing your poems again and then move it songs, just move the shit to songs. You can write songs, get in a band, right...

All you have to do is remember when you start off you're going to be shit but just think you're only warming up. Everybody starts off they will be shit. Then the more you do it the more you improve. You got it in your hand, man, do this. Do it for yourself, Ian. He said, Yeah, I'll look into it. I think I'll look into it.

Okay, I didn't see Ian no more until about, hell, almost 20 years later, and Ian Brown is the lead singer of The Stone Roses. That motherfucker is more famous than me.

I'm a life coach, hypnotist, anyway... and I was very pleased that he took my advice because I was very serious when I was talking to him. He was very, very interested. He was actually listening. I took him away from his friends, I took him over to another corner and was talking to him seriously, telling him he could do this.

It was the same with me. I had the personality, was a dancing fool but I didn't never think about singing, nothing like that. And boom, I jumped into singing with English groups, singing in pubs and the more you do it the better you get.

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