

A RAP for the RAPPER

Bob Hepburn

A rap for the rapper - th' cultural mapper
droppin' mos' def rhymes
like a hype, bugged zapper
A self-proclaimed teacher
authoritative reacher of the youth
the street - the here-and-now preacher.
U the MC wi' the chill - the pinnacle of ill
ya rep is ridin' (n)ice
'Cause U live to make a kill.
Got ya self to the center
a self-declared mentor -
U the ruler of the street
takin' rent from the renters
Action verb-checker - status quo wrecker
bustin' up the bars
like a crazy double-decker
Got the people turnin' to ya
drinkin' in ya words
Ev'rybody sippin' like a thirsty herd.

(Yo. That the last straw?)

Your lyrical is angry and rightly so
'cause the street life is a hard knock
(it's about to blow)
The people cry "no justice"
believing that it's just us
to keep things kickin'
before they try to dust us.
U said U had enough
the grill has gotten tough
as the street keeps movin' harder
to the nasty side of rough
And so U lift ya voice -
U speakin' right on time
U caught the minds of the people
with ya sinker, hook 'n line, sayin'
"Set it to blast - turn up the heat
this baller's gonna drop it
to a crazy, blazin' beat."

("A-yo, G. Hold up a sec. Jus' look at U.")

As U address the situation
keep in mind an explanation
for your words will be required
that U spat across the nation

'Cause a teacher of the street
is called upon to meet
a judgment that is tougher
than the ones up at his feet

As a hip-hop leader you're a cultural meter
did ya move the bar towards God
or default to evil-feeder?

Your rhyme is smooth as butter
but does the stuff U utter
make the people go astray
with their minds left in the gutter?

Your creativity's - an honored guest
but your Maker never gave it
for unrighteousness.

Do U cause a man to stumble
or maybe start to crumble
or fumble or tumble
because of what U mumbled?

Why U messin' up your brother
trippin' one another?

Tell me how U build a people
while you're draggin' down each other?

Desire's not in check - the baller's gonna wreck
will your tongue keep waggin'
when it crashes to the deck?

Ya feel this kills your joy? Before U get annoyed
remember words come back to
haunt the ones who use 'em as a ploy.

'Cause in the judgment, friend,
U can't make amends
by your words you'll be acquitted
or you'll find yourself condemned

'Cause if a man can make recorders
to tape your words in order
is it hard for God to make
your memory a self-reporter?

(I... is... this... live... o... or ... is it memory?)

A little bit of steel in a horse's mouth
can change up its direction
from north to south

And though the wind blows strong
and the sail gets fluttered
a ship gets turned around by just
a little tiny rudder

So the tongue so small
with its loud proud boasts - can ignite
hellfire (got smoke?) in its host

So who holds the reins as U spit your bit
is it God on high or is it from the pit?
And as U spit your rhyme who holds that rudder
will the ship get wrecked by what U utter?

Gonna come out soon - gonna have its play
U gotta get things right
before Judgment Day.

("U mean I'll be tellin' on myself?")

U say "I own my lips - I am their master
they move my way - either slow or faster
I got all time - I'm a young buhl, strong
So I'll wait 'til later 'fore I change my wrong."

But just a minute - do U know the time
when you'll be checkin' out?
Could be sooner than ya think
"YO!" the demons gonna shout.

Terror's gonna startle U
come from every side
dog your every step
pull U over to the slide.

Death is gonna grab U - mouth'll open wide
burp U at the Judgment, son
where U gonna hide? (For real.)

Your tongue is potent - it ain't no toy, mon
it's a restless evil full of deadly poison
An antidote is needed - U better get it treated
or that thing up in your mouth
will bring U misery repeated.

'Cuz, ya Maker never made your mouth for evil
but it won't be pure until there's an upheaval
of your heart to your Maker
and U take His Son in
let Him change U on the inside
let Him free U from your sin.

(B... br... bre... break it... break it up...)

U say: "Forget that church stuff, I can't agree
'cause everywhere I look I see hypocrisy"

But that ain't nothin' new
but man, your sight's too low
U gotta deal with the Lord
It's Him U gotta know.

U say "He doesn't know what's goin'
down on the street
and doesn't care about the mess
that every brother meets."

"He might be way up there
But I'm on my own
I gotta deal with the pain
and deal with it alone."

Yeah, there's a lot with which U must contend
but why U do it alone
when there's a loving Friend?

He loves U like no other
your sin His blood'll cover
He'll keep U on the street
stick ya closer than a brother.

And so U heard it, son, from the very start
the God Who made an' loves U
has been rhymin' from His heart.

Once we was broken up
trying hard to get together
all the pieces right
and never knowing whether
it could it ever be done
by we ourselves alone
until the Savior came
to make our lives His own.

It's not religion or a culture that we represent
but rather Jesus Christ
the One the Father sent.

He said it's One-on-one
for U and Him some day
He's here to meet U now
don't go the other way

U wanna let the Lord
Who made U - do U right
don't go the other way
you'll never see the Light.

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue is also a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. James 3:1-8 (NIV)

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned. Matthew 12:36-37 (NIV)

Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips." Hosea 14:2 (NIV)

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