

# Respiration (Dr. Luke Remix)

## Talib Kweli

"What'd you do last night?"  
"We did umm, two whole cars  
It was me, these, and Main Three right?  
And on the first car in small letters it said  
"All you see is" and then you know  
Big, big, you know some block silver letters  
That said "crime in the city' right?"  
"It just took up the whole car?"  
"Yeah yeah, it was a whole car and shit..."[Repeat: x3]  
Escuchela, la ciudad respirando  
[Listen to it, the city breathing]Escuchela[Mos Def]  
The new moon rode high in the crown of the metropolis  
Shining, like who on top of this?  
People was hustling, arguing and bustling  
Gangsters of Gotham hardcore hustling  
I'm wrestling with words and ideas  
My ears is picky, seeking what will transmit  
The scribes can apply to transcript, yo  
This ain't no time where the usual is suitable  
Tonight alive, let's describe the inscrutable  
The indisputable, we New York the narcotic  
Strength in metal and fiber optics  
Where mercenaries is paid to trade hot stock tips  
For profits, thirsty criminals take pockets  
Hard knuckles on the second hands of working class watches  
Skyscrapers is colossus, the cost of living  
Is preposterous, stay alive, you play or die, no options  
No Batman and Robin, can't tell between  
The cops and the robbers, they both partners, they all heartless  
With no conscience, back streets stay darkened  
Where unbeliever hearts stay hardened  
My eagle talons stay sharpened, like city lights stay throbbing  
You either make a way or stay sobbing, the Shiny Apple  
Is bruised but sweet and if you choose to eat  
You could lose your teeth, many crews retreat  
Nightly news repeat, who got shot down and locked down  
Spotlight to savages, NASDAQ averages  
My narrative, rose to explain this existence  
Amidst the harbor lights which remain in the distanceSo much on my mind that it can't recline

Blasting holes in the night til she bled sunshine  
Breathe in, inhale vapors from bright stars that shine  
Breathe out, weed smoke retrace the skyline  
Heard the bass ride out like an ancient mating call  
I can't take it y'all, I can feel the city breathing  
Chest heaving, against the flesh of the evening  
Sigh before we die like the last train leaving[Talib Kweli]  
Breathing in deep city breaths, sitting on shitty steps  
We stoop to new lows, hell froze the night the city slept  
The beast crept through concrete jungles  
Communicating with one another  
And ghetto birds where waters fall  
From the hydrants to the gutters  
The beast walk the beats, but the beats we be making  
You on the wrong side of the track, looking visibly shaken  
Taken them plungers, plunging to death that's painted by the numbers  
With crime unapplied pressure, cats is playing God  
But having children by a lesser baby mother but fuck it  
We played against each other like puppets, swearing you got pull  
When the only pull you got is the wool over your eyes  
Getting knowledge in jail like a blessing in disguise  
Look in the skies for God, what you see besides the smog  
Is broken dreams flying away on the wings of the obscene  
Thoughts that people put in the air  
Places where you could get murdered over a glare  
But everything is fair  
It's a paradox we call reality  
So keeping it real will make you casualty of abnormal normality  
Killers Born Naturally like, Micky and Mallory  
Not knowing the ways'll get you capped like an NBA salary  
Some cats be emceeing to illustrate what we be seeing  
Hard to be a spiritual being when shit is shakin what you believe in  
For trees to grow in Brooklyn, seeds need to be planted  
I'm asking if y'all feel me AND THE CROWD LEFT ME STRANDED  
My blood pressure boiled and rose, cause New York niggaz  
Actin spoiled at shows, to the winners the spoils go  
I take the L, transfer to the 2, head to the gates  
New York life type trife the Roman Empire state[Mos Def]  
So much on my mind I just can't recline  
Blasting holes in the night til she bled sunshine  
Breathe in, inhale vapors from bright stars that shine  
Breathe out, weed smoke retrace the skyline  
Yo don't the bass ride out like an ancient mating call  
I can't take it y'all, I can feel the city breathin  
Chest heaving, against the flesh of the evening

Sigh before we die like the last train leaving Escuchela, respirando ?[Common]

Yo, on The Amen, Corner I stood looking at my former hood

Felt the spirit in the wind, knew my friend was gone for good

Threw dirt on the casket, the hurt, I couldn't mask it

Mixing down emotions, struggle I hadn't mastered

I choreograph seven steps to heaven

And hell, waiting to exhale and make the bread leavened

Veteran of a cold war It's Chica-I-go for

What I know or, what's known

So some days I take the bus home, just to touch home

From the crib I spend months gone

Sat by the window with a clutched dome listening to shorties cuss long

Young girls with weak minds, but they butt strong

Tried to call, or at least beep the Lord, but didn't have a touch-tone

It's a dog-eat-dog world, you gotta mush on

Some of this land I must own

Outta the city, they want us gone

Tearing down the 'jects creating plush homes

My circumstance is between Cabrini and Love Jones

Surrounded by hate, yet I love home

Ask my God how he thought traveling the world sound

Found it hard to imagine he hadn't been past downtown

It's deep, I heard the city breathe in its sleep

Of reality I touch, but for me it's hard to keep

Deep, I heard my man breathe in his sleep

Of reality I touch, but for me it's hard to keep [Mos Def]

So much on my mind I just can't recline

Blasting holes in the night til she bled sunshine

Breathe in, inhale vapors from bright stars that shine

Breathe out, weed smoke retrace the skyline

Yo how the bass ride out like an ancient mating call

I can't take it y'all, I can feel the city breathing

Chest heaving, against the flesh of the evening

Kiss the Ide's goodbye, I'm on the last train leaving

#### Songwriters

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