Hope

Nas

Hip-hop, it will never die
Hip-hop, hip-hop will never, never dieGhetto **** struttin' with nothin' but dreams and Queens broke
Mack-10's, you can smell the PCP smoke
Mele Mel told it real in the music he wrote
Those were the days I remember, we used to be closeThen I was nine, coldest winter I remember
Was slippin' in December, two feet of snow
Yeah, that's the East Coast, that black ice
Symbolized the rap life, it was slick and smooth
I understood I had to come from the hoodDoin' the Pee Wee Herman, the Smurf
Before them phones chirped
The block's drugs flowin', didn't have your own work
You had to have somebody else's, a small chrome on your pelvis
Starter Jacket, Blue Georgetown or Green CelticYour girl's too expensive, she wants shellfish
Red Lobster was poppin', standin' on that line forever
I wish somebody would step on my Bally leather's
Now it's whatever, hip-hop's foreverKept my radio on 98 or BLS
Had a pre-pubescent lyric gift but **** never hear me spit
My little brother tried to warn 'em, I was a tornado comin'
He knew from inside, like the eye of a storm and told my pops about itHe gave us tickets to that Wild Style flick
Double Trouble, retarded, we was the proudest
I never had a summer job, sweepin' leaves, socks to my knees
Homemade shorts cutoff, Lee'sI ain't work a day in my life
Wipin' away eraser of the paper man
I'm just tryin' to say it right
Big radio, tape slowin' downLower the lights go, battery dead
I gotta freeze 'em 'til they ice cold
In the freezer later, I'm starin' at the speaker
Sunk in them 808's deeper, cleanin' my sneakersWit' the bristles of a toothbrush, soap and water
I let the shoe strings soak in waterLive hip-hop live, live hip-hop live
Give hip-hop give, give hip-hop give
Stay hip-hop stay, stay hip-hop stay
I pray, hip-hop pray, I pray hip-hop staysAin't got nothin' to do wit old school, new school
Dirty South, West Coast, East Coast
This about us, this our thing, 'knaw'sayin'?
This came from the gut, from the blood, from the soul
Right here man, this is our thing man, you know, so I say what I sayLive hip-hop live, live hip-hop live
Give hip-hop give, give hip-hop give
Stay hip-hop stay, stay hip-hop stay
I pray, hip-hop pray, I pray hip-hop staysAnd I say what I say, and I mean it

Y'all take it how you wanna take it
'Cause if you're askin', why is hip-hop dead?
It's a pretty good chance you're the reason it died, manIt's a pretty good chance your lame ****
Corny ****, is the reason it died, man
You don't give a **** about, you don't know nothin' about it
You want this paper, be a hustlerLive hip-hop live, live hip-hop live
Give hip-hop give, give hip-hop give
Stay hip-hop stay, stay hip-hop stay
I pray, hip-hop pray, I pray hip-hop staysYou a hustler, you ain't a rapper
Get your paper man
You know what I'm sayin', but this rap **** is real
****, this **** is real, ****Stay hip-hop stay, stay hip-hop stay
(Live, live)
I pray, hip-hop pray, I pray hip-hop stays
(Give)Live hip-hop live, live hip-hop live
(Stay)
Give hip-hop give, give hip-hop give
Stay hip-hop stay, stay hip-hop stay
I pray, hip-hop pray, I pray hip-hop stays

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