Know That

Mos Def

Hey, hey, hey man I strike the empire back I strike the empire back Fuck the empire High flyin' like the Millennium Falcon, piloted by Han Solo I never roll for dolo, frontin' on me's a no-no Understand? Doin' this for my family Ha ha, check it out y'all Yo, I'm tryin' to make a dollar out of what makes sense Add it up, told my daddy I'd be a rich man You never know when your fate gon' switch hand Get today's solid ground out of yesterday's quicksand I was a young boy, who dreamt about being a big man On small looseleaf sheets I sketched a big plan Gotta handle business properly, boost up my economy Store it up and get my mom some waterfront property Yesterday was not for me but nowadays it's time for me The streets is watchin' me, I watch back, that's the policy Movin' along my oddesey like blood through the artery Navigate the treacherous and make it seem effortless Let those who make the exodus seekin' the North beacon From beatin' and hog-eatin', from punishment all season From hands cracked and bleedin' cotton thorns in your palms It's for y'all that I sketch these songs, and it goes Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow I fear no man, because faith is the arrow My vocal chord travel worldwide to block narrow We can blow with the ammo or go mano-a-mano Kweli is you wit me? Let's make it happen (Whattup whattup?) I burn through your argument with action

My eyes stay fastened to tomorrow lookin' for a brighter day
When y'all wanna leave y'all? Right away
Shout it out from East-West, from South to Northern
From Cakalak' to California
From the coldest to the warmest
To the borders 'cross the waters, understand
And know that I love you
We got love in the place

Shout out to all the Queens all the seeds
To all the teams that's gettin' cream
From outlaw to emcee's
Make it happen do your thing, understand
And know that I love you

Ladies and gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen Guess who? The illest MC in the atmosphere, yeah the Soul Controller who roam the frontier like a Buffalo Soldier

I follow the code of honor like a real man gonna
Never disrespect no women 'cause I love my momma
These cats be givin' us praise but it ain't that accurate
I give it up to God, all that, love and attachment, get
Scary well-prepared with the shears when it get hairy
Like how these niggaz is lookin' like some fairies

And singin' like canaries to the beast And anybody who will listen to 'em clearly

Y'all don't hear me though, even when I'm comin' through in stereo You make a mockery of what I represent properly

Yo, why you startin' me? I take that shit straight to the artery Intellectual property I got the title and the deed

I pay for rent, with the tears and sweat, and what I bleed MC's imitate the way we walk, the way we talk

You cats spit lyrical pork with no spiritual thought

Plus your flow a little bit off, you come across soft

Back in the days, niggaz like that on stage got tossed off

Need to get crossed off the guest list It's like you gotta be disrespected

And thrown out the exit to get the message

Sometimes your sunshine get snatched like a necklace when you get too drunk on power and your drive get reckless

Check it, MC's in my face after I slug you then I hug you If I gotta dead you know it's only 'cause I love you

Shout it out from East-West from South to Northern

From the richest to the poorest

To the elders in the coffins

Livin' native dyin' for it, understand

And know that I love you

Yeah, yeah, we got love in the place

Shout out from up top to the middle

To black bottom, sky high

Whether you colder than December or hotter, than July
It don't stop 'til we complete this

And know that I love you keep this fly

It's so much to life when you just Stay black, stay black Stay black, stay black Stay black, stay black Stay black, stay black Stay black, stay black

My people, my people, my people people p-people
My people, oh oh oh oh ohh, oh ohh

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