

# Friends & Family

## Talib Kweli

You are now witnessing the demise of the music business  
I say demise of the music business cause people always gonna need music in they life  
You know what I'm saying  
I can't do music with people I'm uncomfortable with  
You know what I'm saying  
I can't be on stage with you pouring out my soul if I don't like you  
So with said shout out to Strong Arm Steady  
Shout out to Jean Grae  
That's my Blacksmith family you dig  
I just heard a song that reminded me of times when you were finding me  
Rhyming in Greenwich Village circa 1993  
Yeah those were the salad days my careers appetizing  
The main course a casserole a jambalaya  
Different influences that led me where the music is  
A student is only as good as his teachers tutelage  
Paying for college and not learning was straight foolishness  
So I stopped going to school but this  
Hard to tell my parents how to now try to get through to them  
Thought of no one daily and traveled to different places  
Freestyled with Clef and Forte in the Booga Basement  
With Rubiks and JuJu on Flatbush my hood amazing  
Platinum Island recording with Duro and Just Blaze  
And that was right next door to Rawkus what's up Jarret and Brian relax y'all  
I'm mad [?] Kendra Ross you got the soul of a Stax singer  
I love how you always bring it back sister  
You and Reesy making every record  
I got classics with Hi-Tek and Mos Def that are so respected  
Shout out to Corey Smith shout out to Dave Chapelle  
I went on tour with The Roots they played so well  
Writing rhymes with Mike and Nine me and Pharoahe Monch were Soundbombing  
Me and Lonnie Lynn got a lot in Common  
Mystic Journeyman introduced me to Top Ramen  
On the bus Kanye West would never stop rhyming  
Ain't no mountain high enough for him he never stopped climbing  
That's why when the homies win I never stop smiling  
See I'm smiling right now  
Nothing else matters more than friends and family  
No doubt that's how it's gotta be  
This is my odyssey it's just the god in me

Yup they all a part of me  
Cause I would die for them and they would die for me  
That's right and plus I love my fans  
Love when you throw your hands up it's like you all my fam  
Like you considered kin

Got me through thick and thin thank you for listening  
Nothing else matters more than friends and family  
It started with a blast now I'm a iconoclast  
Promise to be honest in my craft and make the promise last  
I do this for myself but the song for you  
Once I put it out for sale then it belong to you  
This for Amani Fela plus Diani Eshe  
Your daddy love his girl your mother never far away  
This is for Eque this for Kierra Paul  
We wanna ride like Ciara and we will never fall  
Headquarters and Guru is love forever ya'll  
Make it plain cause it's too strong for a metaphor  
Simile your legacy will always be remembered for forever or  
Til the end of time whichever come first

Big love to my mom and dad you could have done worst  
Jamal and I the way we are cause you put your sons first  
Many black parents lose they son to the gun burst  
Mommas drowning in they own tears til they lungs burst  
Voice cracking like Michael Stipe cause everyone hurts  
Nothing else matters more than friends and family  
No doubt that's how it's gotta be  
This is my odyssey it's just the god in me

Yup they all a part of me  
Cause I would die for them and they would die for me  
That's right and plus I love my fans  
Love when you throw your hands up it's like you all my fam  
Like you considered kin

Got me through thick and thin thank you for listening  
Nothing else matters more than friends and family  
My first record was with Mood back in '96  
In fact it was pretty fresh Google that find that shit  
It sound good I was showing you what timeless is  
You couldn't catch what I was saying without rewinding it  
Believe me every fan is special  
You hear me now but I got fans from Lyricist Lounge and "Manifesto"  
So much wack rap I know it's hard to tell  
The difference but when I heat it up I make the garbage smell  
I'm resurrected but I'm no savior  
I know the game I can ball a little bit I'm an OK Player

Double meaning cause the flow is layered  
We love to say it but it's easier than it sound to ignore the haters  
To snap back like the jaws of gators  
[Fades out]

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