

# Shallow Days

Blackalicious

I just keep moving on... (moving on...)  
I just keep moving on... (moving on...)

time and time, a brother asks why  
the rhyme is not laced with a gangsta touch  
I said "Simply because I don't live that way  
still kickin' them rhymes rugged and rough"  
"But that won't sell,  
cause you gotta keep it real  
so that we can feel  
where you're coming from  
Because these streets is ill so if you ain't  
killing niggas in rhymes  
your whole sound's just bubble gum"  
I said "I won't contribute to genocide;  
I'd rather try to cultivate the inner side  
and try to evolve the frustrated ghetto mind  
The devil and his army never been a friend of mine"  
"But niggas don't wanna hear that shit" said the brother  
who was obviously totally misled and yelled out  
"murder murder, kill, murder" instilled in the influential (walks ?)  
of our kids' heads

shallow days, you never wanna  
let a brother be a brother  
fully inner to the outer  
caught up in all them hollow nights  
can't escape cause everywhere that I look  
people front, and it just ain't right  
(repeat)

I said "Don't you know the powers that be  
are using people as pawns, devouring we  
until they see us all gone and outta the scene"  
and as I passed the chronic, he said "look at where I be,  
I tried to get a job for real,  
but all the homies (hit licks?) and rob and steal  
and keep fat pockets caught in a rut to catch ground  
this way's in, plus who could you trust?"  
I said "I'm all about protecting mine,  
but neglecting minds for getting left behind.  
Why don't you change your environment?"  
He said "This is all I know,  
plus my fam's all that I got, I can't go"  
I said "You gotta make it for the fams"  
"Damn," he said "I didn't make the ghetto,  
The ghetto made the man"  
I said "You're more than just that,"  
shook his hand, said "Damn, you gotta find a way  
to break the devil's master plan, peace"

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(repeat)

The word "peace" is just an expression  
used to say bye when it's time to jet  
and them red black and green medallions  
was all just part of the trend, I guess  
Hardly ever them around brothers' necks no more  
Instead of that gold (gats ?)  
inspiring gangstas and macks  
who at the young age of four  
be seeing more drama than war veterans  
instead of learning God's laws  
and hip-hop is ((all the ways ?) till we enlist that ??)  
to express how we be feeling about this and that  
but music does reflect life  
and kids look up to what you're portraying  
and mimic what you act like  
It's time for a new day  
an era in rap, conscious styles,  
makin' them aware of the happenings  
but their ears seem more steered towards  
self-annihilation so then they might laugh  
and write this off, like I'm out here just  
blowing wind, maybe label us soft or unreal,  
something they just can't feel, while they yell  
"murder murder murder, kill kill kill"

I just keep movin' on (moving on ...)  
I just keep movin' on (moving on ...)