

## Don't Shoot the Messenger

E-40

I got love for real dudes good brothas don't respect suckas  
What want for myself I want for others  
I had holes in socks and my draws growin up stressin  
Didn't have a lot of money and material possessions  
Pop warner and little league pitched played out field  
Had a valet times hill and paper route to help pay the bills  
My hood is a battlefield lots of talent a skill  
Women smart enough to be journalists like federico winfield  
We hollow broke we or got the latest iphone  
A zap it or choke in the lebron zone  
Can't remember your sat but to every e40 song  
You can recite every lyric and rap along  
We living in different day such challenging times  
Financial binds, senselessness crimes  
I was talkin to my og he did 20 for real  
He said if I had some bread I wouldn't put none of these niggas in my will  
Because they turn like a steering wheel and forget you when you in jail  
They didn't write me or nothin no commissary no mail  
That's what he said to me so I pulled out a g  
Even though he used to run with my uncle I was just 3  
Years old with a snotty nose and observing him being nosey  
Soaking up game and ear husslin while they trade war stories  
Thugin and bustin, death and destruction  
Chaos and catastrophe, triumph and tragedy

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I don't come from money I come from fried baloney  
Starvin and thirsty eb key cards pop a murphy  
Lord have mercy it's brutal and murky out here on the ave  
Where the mail man's scared to come in you can't catch a cab  
Me and my partnas be gettin together drinkin, smokin herb  
Talkin bout reincarnation comin back as a bird  
I was channel surfing watchin the word network cause I get inspired  
When I here the ministry of joyce myers I use my rushcard to order her tapes  
Or should I say dvds her's and tb jakes  
Is it any good people left on this earth that show pity  
That will do anything for their relatives give up a kidney  
But would their relatives do the same for them I don't know  
You'll be surprised how selfish people can be even kin folk  
I can't imagine me goin to hell the devil's a liar  
What you wanna be I wanna be one of God's angels when I die  
The pearly gates not the underworld in the afterlife  
At the end of the tunnel will there be light  
Will the sky be purple, will the grass be blue  
Will I recognise my family will they know me too  
Living on this earth is a test behold  
When God call we can't put in on hold  
I'm just the writer not the editor  
Here go my letter don't shoot the messenger

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Hey I like to say to ugh all the industry people out there to that ugh  
Has control of what we call hiphop, like for people to put more of an effort  
for hiphop to be what it was instead of the culture of violence that it is  
right now you know there's a lot of things going you know what I mean  
There's a lot of people that put in a lot of time, you the break dancers  
The graffiti artist, people rappin all over the world  
And I think it means a lot, I mean it means a lot to people like me that for  
all my life I've been in hiphop  
And it should more than just somebody standin on the side a the road selling  
dope  
I mean that may or may not have it's place too because it's there  
But I'm just sayin I ain't neva shot nobody, I ain't neva stab nobody  
I'm 45 years old and I ain't I ain't got no criminal record you know what I  
mean the only thing I've ever done is care about my music  
So I mean so while we teaching people what it is about life in the ghetto  
Then we should be teaching people what life is in the ghetto me tryna grown  
up  
And come up out of the ghetto and we need everybody's help out there to make  
it happen  
Hiphop needs to grow up and I'm a grown man I'm a be doin hiphop all my life  
I need somebody's help to help me do it. So let's get this thing done