

## N.Y. State of Mind

Nas

Yeah yeah, ayyo black it's time (word?)  
(Word, it's time nigga?)  
Yeah, it's time man (aight nigga, begin)  
Yeah, straight out the fuckin dungeons of rap  
Where fake niggaz don't make it back  
I don't know how to start this shit, yo, now

Rappers I monkey flip 'em with the funky rhythm I be kickin  
Musician, inflictin composition  
of pain I'm like Scarface sniffin cocaine  
Holdin a M-16, see with the pen I'm extreme, now  
Bulletholes left in my peepholes  
I'm suited up in street clothes  
Hand me a nine and I'll defeat foes  
Y'all know my steelo with or without the airplay  
I keep some E&J, sittin bent up in the stairway  
Or either on the corner bettin Grants with the celo champs  
Laughin at baseheads, tryin to sell some broken amps  
G-Packs get off quick, forever niggaz talk shit  
Remeniscing about the last time the Task Force flipped  
Niggaz be runnin through the block shootin  
Time to start the revolution, catch a body head for Houston  
Once they caught us off guard, the Mac-10 was in the grass and  
I ran like a cheetah with thoughts of an assassin  
Pick the Mac up, told brothers, "Back up," the Mac spit  
Lead was hittin niggaz one ran, I made him backflip  
Heard a few chicks scream my arm shook, couldn't look  
Gave another squeeze heard it click yo, my shit is stuck  
Try to cock it, it wouldn't shoot now I'm in danger  
Finally pulled it back and saw three bullets caught up in the chamber  
So now I'm jetting to the building lobby  
and it was filled with children probably couldn't see as high as I be  
(So whatchu sayin?) It's like the game ain't the same  
Got younger niggaz pullin the triggers bringing fame to they name  
and claim some corners, crews without guns are goners  
In broad daylight, stickup kids, they run up on us  
Fo'-fives and gauges, Macs in fact  
Same niggaz'll catch a back to back, snatchin yo' cracks in black  
There was a snitch on the block gettin niggaz knocked  
So hold your stash until the coke price drop  
I know this crackhead, who said she gotta smoke nice rock  
And if it's good she'll bring ya customers in measuring pots, but yo  
You gotta slide on a vacation  
Inside information keeps large niggaz erasin and they wives basin  
It drops deep as it does in my breath  
I never sleep, cause sleep is the cousin of death  
Beyond the walls of intelligence, life is defined  
I think of crime when I'm in a New York state of mind

Be havin dreams that I'ma gangster -- drinkin Moets, holdin Tec  
Makin sure the cash came correct then I stepped  
Investments in stocks, sewein up the blocks  
to sell rocks, winnin gunfights with mega cops  
But just a nigga, walking with his finger on the trigger  
Make enough figures until my pockets get bigger  
I ain't the type of brother made for you to start testin  
Give me a Smith and Wesson I'll have niggaz undressin

Thinkin of cash flow, buddah and shelter  
Whenever frustrated I'ma hijack Delta  
In the P.J.'s, my blend tape plays, bullets are strays  
Young bitches is grazed each block is like a maze  
full of black rats trapped, plus the Island is packed  
From what I hear in all the stories when my peoples come back, black  
I'm livin where the nights is jet black  
The fiends fight to get crack I just max, I dream I can sit back  
and lamp like Capone, with drug scripts sewn  
Or the legal luxury life, rings flooded with stones, homes  
I got so many rhymes I don't think I'm too sane  
Life is parallel to Hell but I must maintain  
and be prosperous, though we live dangerous  
cops could just arrest me, blamin us, we're held like hostages  
It's only right that I was born to use mics  
and the stuff that I write, is even tougher than dykes  
I'm takin rappers to a new plateau, through rap slow  
My rhymin is a vitamin, held without a capsule  
The smooth criminal on beat breaks  
Never put me in your box if your shit eats tapes  
The city never sleeps, full of villians and creeps  
That's where I learned to do my hustle had to scuffle with freaks  
I'ma addict for sneakers, twenties of buddah and bitches with beepers  
In the streets I can greet ya, about blunts I teach ya  
Inhale deep like the words of my breath  
I never sleep, cause sleep is the cousin of death  
I lay puzzle as I backtrack to earlier times  
Nothing's equivalent, to the new york state of mind