

## In The Ghetto

Rakim

Ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto, nobody smiling  
Where you're in hell  
Nobody smiling, ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto  
Nobody smiling, ghetto

Ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto  
Where you're in hell  
Nobody smiling, ghetto  
Where you're in hell  
Nobody smiling

Planet earth was my place of birth  
Born to be the sole controller of the universe  
Besides the part of the map I hit first  
Any environment I can adapt when it gets worse

The rough gets goin' the goin' gets rough  
When I start flowin' the mic might bust  
The next state'll shake from the power I generate  
People in Cali used to think it was earthquakes

'Cause times is hard on the boulevard  
So I bogard and never get scarred I'm God  
But it seems like I'm locked in hell  
Lookin' over the edge but the R never fell

Or tripped or slipped 'cause my Nikes got grip  
I stand on my own two feet and come equipped  
Any stage I'm seen on the mic I fiend on  
I stand alone and need nothin' to lean on

Goin' for self with a long way to go  
So much to say but I still flow slow  
I come correct and I won't look back  
'Cause it ain't where you from it's where you at

Even the  
Ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto  
Where you're in hell  
Nobody smiling

I learn to relax in my room and escape from New York  
Came through the womb of the world as a thought  
Thinkin' how hard it was to be born  
Me being cream with no physical form

Millions of cells with one destination  
To reach the best part that's life's creation  
Nine months later a job well done  
Make way 'cause here I come

Since I made it this far can't stop now  
There's a will and a way and I got the know how  
To be all there is to be and more  
To see all there is to see before

I'm called to go back to the essence

It's a lot to learn so I studied my lessons  
I thought the ghetto was the worst that could happen to me  
I'm glad I listened when my father was rapping to me

'Cause back in the days they lived in caves  
Exiled from the original man and strayed away  
Now that's what I call hard times  
I'd rather be here to exercise the mind

Then I take a thought around the world twice  
From knowledge the form back to knowledge precise  
Across the desert that's hot as the Arabian  
But they couldn't cave me in 'cause I'm the Asian

Reaching for the city of Mecca visit Medina  
Visions of Nefertiti then I seen her  
Mind keeps travelin' I'll be back after I  
Stop and think about the brothers and sisters in Africa

Return the thought through the eye of a needle  
For miles I fought and I just fought the people  
Under the darks skies on a dark side  
Not only there but right here's an apartheid

So now is the time for us to react  
Take a trip through the mind and when you get back  
Understand your third eye seen all of that  
It ain't where you from it's where you at

Even the  
Ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto, nobody smiling  
Even the  
Ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto  
Where you're in hell

Nobody smiling, ghetto  
Where you're in hell  
Nobody smiling  
Ghetto, nobody smiling  
Where you're in hell  
Nobody smiling

No more props I want property in every burrough  
Nobody's stoppin' me because I'm thorough  
Rhymes I make give me real estate for me to own  
Where ever I bless a microphone

Double O seven is back and relaxin'  
On point and reactin' and ready for action  
I'm so low key that you might not see me  
Incognito and takin' it easy  
Ghetto

Quiet is kept on a hush hush  
In front of a crowd I get loud as a bum rush  
But calm keep a low pro and play the background  
Hoping the wack rappers put the mic back down

So rip it break it in half go ahead and slam it  
'Cause when it's time to build I'm a mechanic  
I'm bondin' and mendin' attachin' and blandin'  
So many solos there is no ending

People in my neighborhood they know I'm good  
From London to Hollywood where ever I stood  
Footprints remain on stage ever since  
Sidewalks and streets I leave fossils and dents

When I had sex I left my name on necks  
My trademark was left throughout the projects  
I used to get rich when I played C-Lo  
When I rolled 4, 5, 6 they go we know

So I collect my cash then slide  
I got my back my gun's on my side  
It shouldn't have to be like that  
I guess it ain't where you from it's where you at

Even the  
Ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto, nobody smiling  
I'm from the, ghetto  
Where you're in hell  
Word up, peace  
Nobody smiling, ghetto, nobody smiling  
Ghetto, nobody smiling

Ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto, nobody smiling  
Where you're in hell  
Nobody smiling  
Ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto, nobody smiling  
Ghetto, nobody smiling, ghetto, nobody smiling  
Ghetto, where you're in hell