

Rahula Today
Enable Passion
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Humbly I approach,

Peace Abiodun, we spoke on the phone the other morning. My name is Rahula Today, I am a long time student of your work. By surprise I saw you perform twice in a couple months' time, first at Hunter then at Pace University—both for Katrina benefits. You have taught me so much, and I felt I was finally prepared enough to request a collaboration. For me music is secondary to education, I use hip-hop to fund schools. This year I'm opening my second annual summer freedom school in the Lower East Side, as well as seeking capital investment for a label of revolutionary artists in many genres. Ultimately, I believe the combination of progressive media with mainstream outlets will bring about great change - we're doing what we can to move the movement. I am reaching out to my elders now for support and guidance, I have also contacted Amiri Baraka and Martin Espada, as well as former Panthers, Young Lords and many others.

First I would like to offer you some music I have been working on for about 3 years. It's now ready for you to hear. By August, I hope to let the whole world hear it. For free. FREErap is an experiment in cultural resistance sonic graffiti. I will place copies in 50 000 strategic locations around New York. I have been told that the point of an artist is to take from the rich and give to the people. FREErap, then is the ultimate nonviolent weapon. The song FREErap sparked the idea around when I started thinking about pursuing a solo career in hip hop. The beat is the first track on the CD I included, representing the label Passionate Music. Here's what I have written so far:

[intro - Last Poets?]

[v1]

Infiltrate the media with plans to plan the seed in ya
Now bite the hand misfeedin ya/ leadin ya into darkness
I spark this evolutionary movement
To unify all the crews and redefine this music
Some Get Up and Do It! Influenced by fluid
For styles I drink water/ Think harder, don't barter
Don't settle for less/ Name's Today, came to test ya metal
Quit braggin, I'm taggin so get out your black book
No flat foot though I walk the beat, ride the beat
Matta fact I fly the beat, you could try my heat
One size fits all, rips all mics/ And you enticed
When my ellipsis eclipses your best rhyme
FREErap release minds

[bridge - Last Poets?]

[hook]

I just wanna BOOM KA!
I just wanna Let It Out!
I just wanna rikit ta tikit ta tikit BA
I just wanna FREErap

I just wanna Be That
the Human Potential Manifest
Here and Now

[v2]

Up off your ass while I lace the track
No gats, let the vocals clik - clak
Son I spit fire, feel the backdraft
When the industry laugh last
I attack the track with fury unheard of in these parts
These arts crept up slow, boiled in a cauldron
Y'all been impatiently waiting for the
Glass break ass shake double bubble 2TON toil & trouble
Rise from the rubble and we take back the streets
FREErap we take back the beats from these robot MCs
Programmed by the man and just can't understand
Everybody from artist to the fan gettin scammed
It's a part of the plan, put your voice in a can
Not to mention the image they slang to my fam
Gotta be the hardest thug, be the baddest ho
Maintain the status quo - ain't no future for us
Just potential pawns lined up with guns drawn

[v3]

Call it corporate commercial infected perverse yo
Forget about I - FREErap about US and FREErap NOT ENOUGH
We need free information, free education
Free medicine - we sick of being patient
Free food clothing and shelter, just basic needs
And basically this system got us living on our knees
Free the ghetto from crack & genocidal legislation
Free the racist from the hatred of the past generation
Free the worker from debt/ Free the student from delusion
Free the movement from ego & agenda/ Learn how to use it
To open up these prisons envision schools where they at
Freedom means responsibility, can you handle that?
Free the air and the trees/ Free the media, Free speech
Free us from cowboys in office! 4 more years??
Free us all from this culture of silence and fear
FREErap might not be able to do all that
But we gotta start somewhere I'm just taking a chance...

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Well, that's my song. I would be honored to work with you on it. I have also included information on the open mic I would like to book you for sometime this summer, and a writeup on the nonprofit and the school itself. I look forward to hearing from you, and will try to join you at your open house very soon.

Solidarity,

Rahula Today

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