

## De La Soul "Held Down"

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Allow me, to break it down, ah  
Yea, yea, yea, yea, yeah  
Life

This is dedicated to all my folks  
Diagnosed with a bad case of that proper upbringing'  
And never took the time to fall in line or follow  
Or swallow the thoughts

Of the recognized committees who lurk throughout ya  
cities  
Ya hood, ya town, no matter which type  
You from the same type of people try to hold you down  
Just because you tailor made for bigger and better  
things

Never missed a chance to move ahead of things  
And what does it bring? I tell you for me  
It brought jealousy in back wounds from all the stabbin'  
Cats posin' as my fan just to get grabbin' what's mine

I'm livin' in times where my daughters are found  
around  
Kids who can't afford thinkin' caps  
But always found drinkin' raps and eatin' off beats  
Claimin' laws of the streets, but who made the laws?  
Everybody playin' 'rebel' with no sign of a 'cause'

Well I, feel the world around me  
I've found that others will bring you down just to be  
down  
You've got to make up your mind where you wanna be  
Where you wanna go with your life, with your life

Yo, I'm never singin' the blues but findin' the clues to  
maintain  
And I been blessed to reign supreme over nearly every  
dream I had  
And I made it come true, I'm an imperfect man  
And I'm holdin' the clue to perfection

It doesn't seem to matter what direction I look

I find people settin' traps, tryin' to find the goal  
Without havin' any maps, even friends of mine  
Jumped on line just to become my adversary

They felt they were entitled to the dairy I made  
They don't come to chill or behave  
And they got, toast ready to burn  
Not learnin' to live, but they yearnin' to take what you  
earn

Well I, feel the world around me  
I've found that others will bring you down just to be  
down  
You see, you've got to make up your mind, where you  
wanna be  
And where you wanna go with your life, with your life

So quick to place blame and deny the shame  
We bring upon ourselves so many names held  
Accountable for my own account  
When a large amount was weight that I made and  
shaped

When I climbed I found  
It was hard to find others around to point my fingers at  
Which made me realize the truth  
The biggest suppressor could be your own ego  
Lookin' for an excuse to plant roots, in a field of self  
sorrow

To sprout and follow the first thing you feel  
Nourishes your hunger to be respected, it gets hectic  
And when I'm watchin' the news and my daughter  
walks in  
And choose to ask

"Why were all those people on the floor sleepin',  
covered in red?"  
I told her that they were lookin' for God  
But found religion instead

Well I, feel the world around me  
I've found that others will bring you down just to be  
down  
You see, you've got to make up yo' mind, where you  
wanna be  
And where you wanna go with yo' life, with your life,  
with your life

[Unverified]

I need my space to live

Well I, feel the world around me

I've found that others will bring you down just to be  
down

You see, you've got to make up yo' mind, where you  
wanna be

And where you wanna go with yo' life, with your life,  
with your life

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