

## Esther Phillips

### "One Life"

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( Last Emporer feat Poetic and Esthero )

1993, shortly before Thanksgivin'  
I got the call she say Jamal, Derek is no longer livin'  
Softly she spoke  
Is this a joke?  
Man, you gotta be kiddin'  
As my question was raised this explanation was givin'  
A meaningless death  
Made me question the meaning of life  
Does my body remain at rest like when I'm sleeping at  
night?  
Will I burn in eternal hell?  
Or will I find paradise?  
Be rejected or ressurected like the body of Christ  
Is it like purgatory the story described by the Catholics?  
Or nirvana that Buddha saw in both theory and practice  
Like I studied in my college phillosophy classes  
Or do my molecules and atoms travel back to the  
gases  
I mean what I'd like to know  
Is wheres my spirit go?  
After the curtains close  
On my final show  
Is there a pain it brings?  
Enjoy my favorite thing  
Visit ancient kings  
Hear the angel sing  
Who'll answers these said the great mcs  
My man Gremel's battling a debilitating disease  
He said "You see a brother like me is full in the fight"  
And everytime I question death my only answer in life  
Nigga fight

One life  
Only god can set me free  
Am I living in this moment?  
Am I living righteously?  
It gets hard, but I know I've got to keep on  
I'm tryin so hard to be strong

Paralyzed on the bathroom floor by pain  
Last month I endured  
But now I can't ignore  
Feels like rail road spikes being stuck in my liver  
And my dyin eyes cryin', body startin to shiver  
Crawl upstairs from the basement callin my sister  
\*sniff\* Dawn, help me, I ain't feelin to healthy  
Stomach walls burnin  
Head spinnin and turnin  
Waitin for the EMS 3:10 in the mournin  
Rush me to emergency screamin like a newborn  
The pain's to strong maybe my souls tryin to move on  
He hooked me to the i.v.  
Put me through some x-rays  
Gave me demorall to kill the pain that was the next  
phase  
Early the next day in a hospital room  
Moms and Pops in the room  
3 or 4 docs in the room  
My test results suggest Your colon and your liver is so  
cancerous  
You got 3 months left  
Me and death is playin chess  
Ever since then  
My strength is the most high, my fam and close friends  
The Last Emp been sent free blessed me with a verse  
Stayin healthy comes first, look at me, things can be  
worse

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