

## Talib Kweli "City Playgrounds"

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What we have here  
Is the alpha and the omega  
I spit it, bare witness to the greatest  
And the latest, they try to hate us

Witness the evolution of spitting, it's wicked and it's  
decadent  
Revolutions per minutes, every time the record spin  
Retribution for cynics, like a stick-up kid with weapons  
In Brooklyn, they say I run it, the 'Natti is checking in

No matter the terminology, blood splatter artistically  
It's looking like a Jackson Pollock painting, it's a  
mystery  
Really should be brothers united against the industry  
The African diaspora scatter with shattered history

The game missing me, rap is so repetitive  
Although I ain't your blood or your cuz, it's all relative  
I got a gang of rhymes, and Tones' beats is banging  
We moving through the streets like we're slanging  
dimes

It's magical, how the track's so classical  
The cats who got gassed up in their sweats like Plaxico  
I'm back from my sabbatical, voice of the future, black  
radical  
Keeping all the damages collateral

Listening to instrumentals  
Thinking about all the things I've been through  
The music is just a peek into my life, it's a window  
It's so high tech and it's all so simple

And if I'm knocked down, I don't stay down  
Even if I get down, I don't lay down  
Hotter than the tar on this empty playground  
Hotter than the tar on this empty playground

Hey yo, I'm taking all bets and settling all debts  
A giant leap for man begins with a small step  
From a sword to a set, to my people on the picket line

Who's sick of getting treated like them aliens in  
District 9

I juxtapose my business model with my spirit  
What I'm just supposed to keep you comfortable with  
the lyrics?  
I know the flow's disturbing, I know for certain just  
because  
You know all about the artist don't mean you know the  
person

You don't know me, I run labels  
These unstable rappers so phony  
I try to listen but they're boring as missionary position  
So I'm shitting on these niggas like dysentery  
conditions

I'm sitting on the throne, you dreaming that it's empty  
soon  
Nobody feeling you, you're screaming in an empty  
room  
The tree that fall in the forest, nobody hearing you  
Even though you fall the hardest, don't get me started

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Yo, I build up my defenses when I'm left to my devices  
Time gets suspended, more than DMX's driver's  
license  
My music's steady, not affected by the higher prices  
People having sex in the streets like Dionysus

You know what my advice is? Fuck my advice, live your  
life  
Stop tripping like everything amount to crisis  
I make the sacrifices, my history is black as ice is  
I don't think that I can trust you if you're lacking vices

I never miss a beat, the liquor make me slurred, it  
takes my words  
Tries to twist them like a Swisher Sweet with sticky  
herbs  
American History X, your teeth'll hit the curb

It's easy 'cause I'm ill with the wordplay, I still flip the  
bird

Like Jeezy, strip it down, now it's exposed  
I suppose my flow is the emperor's new clothes  
Although I'm always by myself, I never ride alone  
The music is on then I'm right at home, zoning

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Yeah, it's pavement  
Don't be scared to think, man, don't be scared  
I know what's in your brain  
It's scary, man, you only usin' like ten percent  
The other ninety percent is scary, man  
But don't be scared, scary ass niggas

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