WORDS FROM THE HOOD

FROM A THUG TO A GANGSTER TO A MAN

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New Jersey State Prison
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Writing: Dante Hayes
“First off! I would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to even consider my thoughts. I’m sorry to those who may misconstrue my words of pain into some form of racism, because I’m truly not racist. “Then again,” What is the word racist to a black man is Amerikkka. “Yet alone,” a young black convict!! So the words you will read in this poem book is the closest you can get to the streets. A lost youth, gangster, criminal, minority, slave, and all the other names white Amerikkka calls us. Yet, if you ever ask me, I’ll say, “I’m a black man in a corrupt white world.”

“Words From the Hood” From a thug-to a gangster-to a man was truly my escape, my therapy and a way to express myself in a more productive way. “As a thug”, I moved as a urban terrorist in my community. “As a gangster” I began to move with more sense, yet held the same blindness of most black youths in this country, with the illusion of real purpose. “As a man,” I stand strong in my convictions. I can truly be proud of my purpose. So for those who know me will truly get a better understanding of who I am, and who I am becoming. I’ve come to grips with the uniqueness I possess. For those who are meeting me for the first time, can truly be amazed at how I’ve transformed the battle of life, and all it’s many tribulations into a pure poetic form of expression. As you read along not only will you view my pain, love and hatred up close. You will also get a chance to view my journey of growth as I’ve traveled, and view me up close and personal. It was truly a journey to elevation to just reach that place where I can say I’m the man my mother raised, Dante Hayes, and not the person the streets knew me as, which is Hood G. By the end of your reading, I would hope you can at least acknowledge my growth If you haven’t elevated yourself. I’ll end this with a “Thank You” and enjoy.
MY INSPIRATION

My inspiration was my aspiration for love. Love for all those who entered my life, rather good or bad energy. Love for those comrades in the ghettos of Amerikkka who may never reach mental freedom. I write to inspire you. Love for those family members, friends, and soldiers who walked step for step along my journey. “Thank You!”

To all those who turned their backs when I needed them most. Without being able to feel the pain from that betrayal, I don’t know if I ever would of woke up. “Thank You!”

To my Earth, Debra M. Murph, you would have to be at the top of the list. Just the fact I was born from a Queen of your caliber is thanks enough. Yet, I can’t minimize the strength you instilled through your endless sacrifices. So to repay for all you’ve done, I’ll show the world the man you’ve raised “Thank You!”

Christine, Allow me to first “Thank You”, for giving me a beautiful little girl. I know at times you might feel like I hate you. The truth is, I have no malice in my heart towards you. Although things went bad, we have a lot of good memories. Truthfully, it took me to reach this point in life to realize I could have been a way better partner. So allow me to say “Sorry” for allowing my ways to add to the system of broken homes. Yet, I ask you not to allow what reality to stop us from giving Asiya the world. “Thank You”, you moving on gave me the chance to see what I wasn’t giving properly to my woman. That will forever be a reminder as to what I must give to the next Queen that enters my life. Just know, you will always have a friend in me.

Asiya D. Hayes, you are my biggest inspiration of all. I just pray one day you will forgive daddy for all the time I’ve missed. I can only hope life spares us the time to make so many more memories. There’s a reality we must face Princess. There is no way to tell what awaits for me on the other side of these walls. Yet, whatever shall wait, your father is a man who’s going to face it all head on. So before I could allow you to grow up hearing who your father was, or the things I’ve done, I must allow you to view me from my eyes. The love I hold for you was enough inspirations that I’m willing to risk my own life to watch you grow, with hopes that harm doesn’t catch me “Thank You!” Princess for just being my inspiration to get it right. Daddy Loves You!

To all those old timers confined in the dungeons of Trenton State. Who took the time to sit a young brother down. Allow me to say, “I hear You” and “Thanks” Ya’ll will forever live through me.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dante Hayes, the author of “Words from the Hood” is a New York born, New Jersey raised man. Born to two parents of the Brooklyn streets who relocated when he was at a young age. They moved to South Jersey “Millville” to be exact in a section called “Uptown” which would soon force the harsh reality on both him and his parents. At the age of thirteen, he began to see some of the darkest sides of life. By eighteen he found himself being charged with murder, and facing life. Eventually the states case turned out not to be as strong as they hoped. Yet without access to millions of dollars he was forced to bargain his life for eight years. The reality of leaving his only daughter, and mother behind. Along with his fight for sanity he began to find peace within his poems. As Dante Hayes traveled his path to elevation he began to read deep into history. This led to him finding out the biggest secret of all behind these walls, which was that those devils who control these warehouses hate to see an educated black man. In 2012 he found himself being assaulted by those paid to protect him. Sad to say, things didn’t turn out to well for his oppressors. Then he was charged with every charge they could think of, which landed him the next four years of his life confined to the dungeons of "Trenton State Administration Segregation Unit, for four more years added to his eight years. Instead of sitting and rotting away like these devils hoped for, Dante used his time to strengthen his mind. He exposed all that he has seen and done to the world. In hopes of enlightening all to the deceptions, racism, and inhumane acts being done in this country. At the young age of 24, the author is proud to release all his emotions in one body of work. I hope that all readers take the time to digest each and every poem. Watch the author transform from a slave to true freedom-Mentally Free. The author is scheduled to be released from captive in 2015.
WORDS
FROM
THE
HOOD
Words from the Hood

AS

A

THUG
Words from the Hood

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Sitting here in this cell
trying to even the sides
see my comrades are at war
with unevenly odds
I tell 'em take two lives for a life
Always honor the name
But it's hard to stare 'em right
when the game done changed
See which one is more important
Your freedom or Life
cause if you ever get caught
you losing twice
See betrayals in the mix
When I drop the facts
Cause my brother is in the middle
I gotta have his back
Cause I am my brother's keeper
That much I know
And my comrades are my brothers
doesn't loyalty show
See these the steps you cross
when sets get mixed
and only real niggaz
know the steps to fix
I just pray down the road
I never have to bury my brother
What kind of man would I be
How would I face my mother
On the flip side
How do I bury a friend
We made a vow to the set
We'll ride or die to the end
I sent a word to the world
like how did the trouble begin
they told me an outsider got dropped
Who wasn't an original friend
Damn that's all it took
for us to lose our bond
We been together since day one
this banging shit is blind
See I'm my brother's keeper
that much I know
Only once the bodies are cleared out
then will my loyalty show

THE GAME DONE CHANGED

I got so much wrong in my brain
That if I ever let it out
I swear the dead will wake up
and feel my pain
See I remember the streets
When loyalty was the same
Now the shit done switched course
and rats winning the game
So tell me what I'm suppose to do
because my heart still true
But everytime I turn around
a nigga telling on you
Somehow it's never the ones your thought
that wouldn't make it
Believe it or not it's the ones
you would bat ya last dollar
that he could take it
And some nigga's too loyal to their friendship
so that don't break it
To me that's more fucked up
then telling itself
Harboring a rat was suppose to be
bad for ya health
so open your eyes
and catch the view
Because if he harboring that dude
he got rat potential too
Because every real nigga knows
ya mouth stays shut
shit if my mother told, brother told
they asses is cut
See the most fucked up shit I hear
Is when you ask a nigga "Did you tell"
they answer with "But"
Words from the Hood

See that's the streets nowadays
because the game is done
You gotta salute a real nigga
Because he ain't run his tongue
I could of swore
that was the first rule
when we entered the game
I now all my real nigga's
can feel my pain

STOP SNITCHING

BITCHES IS GREEZY

They never told me pain hurts
They told me loving was easy
They told me betrayals a bitch
But not that bitches are greezy
They told me never trust a nigga
Stay true to my girl
See that was the biggest lie
they told to the world
They told me look 'em in the eyes
And their demons will speak
They never told me bitches
knew just how to sneak
They told me if I stood by her
Then she'll stand by you
I guess they forgot
all the other things she'd do
They told me diamonds are a girls best friend
They never told me diamonds
will make your girl fuck friends
They told me trust was the key
But not that trust wasn't free
They told me a lot of good shit
But that shit is not for me
They never told me pain hurts
They told me loving was easy
They told me betrayals a bitch
But not that bitches are greezy
PAGE OUT MY DIARY

Damn I woke up this morning
to my bunky taking a shit
Now if that ain't the worst thing to wake up to
Listen to this
I went out to eat breakfast
and I seen some shit
That if they put it in front of a pig
He wouldn't open his lips
and the smell did the job
it made me gag
so I stepped out of line
and had to walk right past a fag
The C.O. had the nerve to ask
"Am I eating"
I gave that cracka the look
like why are you speaking
so I go back to my cell
and start to brush my teeth
Thinking they bout to run school
that's the only release
so I'm walking out the building
going to class
Then I hear "Hey you"
"Step in the grass"
I think, ain't this a bitch
you can kiss my ass
So he gives me the order
to spread my feet
The next thing the cracka does
is grab my meat
So I tell myself, "Don't do it"
just let it go
So now schools out
and it's back to my cell
But once I hit my room
and kick of my sneaks
I hear somebody yell "Raid"
"inmates on your feet"
So it's come out the room
Words from the Hood

And face the wall
take everything off
wiggle ya toes
and spread ya cheeks
Cough one time
and then they flippin ya room
So I think of the time lunch coming soon
So once I finally get to lunch
it's some funny type meat and cheese
So I know once again
I'll be eating soup fix for dinner
But once I get my hour
for showering and cooking
I know there's no way
I can use the phone
So I go back in my cell
just to be alone
Thinking damn four more years of this
till I'm going home
So I flip on the T.V.
and ain't shit on that
So I roll up a cig
to ease my pain
What's fucked up, I'm State Prop
numbers mean my name
I understand I was living a foul life
But who gave them the right
to treat me like wild life

SEE MY WRONGS

I can be here today
and deceased tonight
fuck my wrongs
I did my rights
I'm only tryna live my life
some say I ain't living right
But do you take my wrong or rights
to try and even out my life
this justice shit is fucked up
They give a nigga one hundred years

SEE MY RIGHTS
Words from the Hood

all over one night
Now that's a life for a life
so how the fuck is they right
They try to entrap ya mind
and keep you thinking one way
They say I'm in the land of the free
But tell me things I can't say
They give me guns
to do one thing
Get caught with them
got sent upstate
Now that right there
will take your dreams
If you trying to live
society way
get a job
or hit the block
it's almost like a ticking clock
go to get a job
they tell you "no"
that one mistake
is sure to show
As for the block
no applications
But you just won
ya freedom back
Life doesn't change
to meet your pain
and situations
can't stay the same
They set it up
for their own pleasure
Money is the goal
destroy whoever
It's sad they call this
the land of the free
Without this land
what could we be
Words from the Hood

TAKE A LOOK IN THE MIRROR

Take a look in the mirror. Tell me what do you see?
Do you see the young woman that you wanted to be!

Take a look in the mirror. Tell me what do you see?
Do you see the woman your mother would want you to be!

Take a look in the mirror. Tell me what do you see?
Do you see the type of woman you would want your daughter to be!

Take a look in the mirror. Tell me what do you see?
Do you see this crazy chick you're trying to be!

Take a look in the mirror. Tell me what do you see?
Do you see the reason we could never be!

Take a look in the mirror. Tell me what do you see?
Do you see that chance you took from me!

Take a look in the mirror. Tell me what do you see?
Do you see the woman I wanted for me!

Take a look in the mirror. Tell me what do you see?
I see a lost young woman who's just a wannabe!

NEVER FORGOTTEN

Sitting around passing bottles and blunts
laughing and joking about the things we did
Who would think in the morning
ya'll wouldn't be here
I think everyday
life isn't fair
Five years has past
and everything still so clear
I can still see my last tear
I told myself liquor
was the only thing to ease the pain
I guess this was one of
the ugliest parts of the game
Words from the Hood

confused inside
Because we were so young
  can't understand
What ya'll could have done
  They say everything
    is part of god's plan
    All I ask
      "Is why did you take my mans"
Although I have a few more questions
  or should I just count my blessings
    I still say it isn't true
      but not seein ya'll
        makes the truth come through
          Even though
            you left one of your begotten sons
              You took two that are
                Never Forgotten

R.I.P

Wally
  and
Rick

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

They say you never miss 'em until they gone
  And roses is not enough now
    And the pain be overwhelming
      Enough to shut yourself down
Then I realize that she wouldn't want me sitting low
  Spitting words at god
    Like really, did she have to go
      I feel her aura
        see her face
          and her biggest smile
            Got me fighting all alone through this pain
              It's gonna take awhile
                How do I deal with the reality
                  That i'm forever denied your embrace
                    And the way your love spread as you filled me with grace
Words from the Hood

I held in tears for the fact
That they couldn't bring you back
Yet I still had to honor you
Thinking what my Aunt would do
I begin to let my pen bleed
You are truly missed
Indeed
The emphasis I don't need
For you, this is my creed
As for lollipop
I'm gonna do what I gotta do
And Purpz, that's my brother
You already know I got him too
My words are true
I vow to you
I'm gonna put the family first
And give the love
You always gave
My way of showing you legacies engrave
So until that time, we meet again
Let's hope eternity will be our friend
So we can make up for the time
We couldn't spend

R.I.P

AUNTIE

Elizabeth Travis

"LOSING THIS WAS LOSING YOU"

It's like I'm stuck in a whirlwind
Thinking how I lost my girlfriend
We were both at fault
for doing wrong
But how did I let my world end
I never thought that complications
from my lack of dedication
could really make my world spin
But see your expectations
had set the ratings
Words from the Hood

That started to make your heart bend
It wasn’t often that I seen you smile
Becoming frequent that I seen a frown
so frustration begin to coexist
Making temptations
that much harder to resist
so now my sacrifices
didn’t seem so sacred
and my responsibilities
didn’t seem so basic
Because see that glow in you
Had came to an end
Because deep inside
I had lost a friend

LOST IN A DAY

You ever looked in a man eyes
while you were releasing
his soul
It’s as if your soul gets jealous
because it’s still left in this cold
so your heart beats faster
from the adrenalin rush
so now you start to crave
for that next time
that your gun will bust
You’ve just lost your conscience
and officially fell off course
You start to live life
with no remorse
A lot of the things you knew were wrong
Begin to feel right
or as if
your good and your bad
were having a fight
And no one’s there to catch you
as you drift away
Who do you ask for help
What do you say
That all this madness started
Words from the Hood

from that one day
They start to call you crazy
or say you’re evil inside
But no one will try to help
To get you off that terrible ride
And most will pass judgement
or turn up their face
But see they’re just as wrong
They left me in that place

"SIGNS FROM MY SOUL"

Take a look in my eyes
Tell me what do you see
can you awake my demons
and take ’em from me

Take a look at my face
You say my stare is cold
By the age of sixteen
I was feeling old

Come and hold my hand
You say I shake with force
That’s your way of knowing
I’ve fell off course

Come give me a hug
You say I show no love
I guess you forgot
All that I’m holding above

Come sit in my seat
You say you feel lots of heat
so just think of how it feels
to be in my feet

Listen to my voice
You say I sound so mad
After living my life
How can I be glad
Words from the Hood

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

At the age of thirteen
was when I said I need that green
So I hit the hood
to pull my scheme
But see this one old head
Who was true to the game
said with one look in my eyes
He felt my pain
But I was naive to the truth
and about his gain
He said he had that bud for a grand
and I could see sixteen
And if I stacked my money right
I could cut live my dreams
so I took him on his offer
To feed my crave
Who would of knew that was the day
that I entered my grave
Cuz now I was no longer thinking
about what i could do for fun
it was all about the almighty dollar
and the glory to come
So all sports went out the window
They couldn't keep me fresh
or keep that gold chain hanging
around my chest
and school was only good
for the fashion show
or that the most money was in the white boys
or I wasn't trying to go
But all that flashy shit
came back to bite
It kept them stick-up boys
lurking around at night
I'd be damn if I'd lose my shit or run
so my next best option
was to grab a gun
Thinking atleast I'd be ready
Words from the Hood

if they come
see mom was too busy working
to focus on my change
and pops was long gone
before the exchange
by the time I had realized
I had lost focus of my dreams
and that old head was never a friend
I was stuck in that place called

“The Beginning of the End”

Peace
AS
A
GANGLSTER
Words from the Hood

REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME (Part 1)

I still remember the first time I saw you
I called you precious
I still remember the first time I kissed you
It left me breathless
I still remember the first conversation we had
You released your pain
I still remember that day so clear
Because your loyalty I gained
I still remember the first time I held you tight
You smiled at me, I said “this feels so right”
I still remember the first time I taste
your sweetness
You told me my tongue would be
your weakness
I still remember the first time I held
you through the night
I knew from that point my life would be
alright
I still remember the last day that you was mine
I wonder where would we be
if we didn’t draw the line
So there will always be that question
that roams my mind
Do you
“Remember The First Time”

REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME (Part 2)

If you remember that first time
that means it was great
It was easier saying “goodbye”
then seeing ya face
It was hard admitting my wrongs
Putting me in my place
Cause I rather stand as a man
then be a disgrace
How do I say you gave ya love
But I gave none back
Dante Hayes

And knowing I really loved you
How do I face that fact
Now I'm knowin I lost real love
from something called ego
See I won't disrespect and call it pride
Cause pride had been erased when you took
my side
So now I'm reminiscing bout the times
we had
Beating myself up because it went so bad
Now all I got is memories
cause you walked away
If I had a second chance
this is what I'd say

YA MAN LOVES HARD
You ever had a mans love
Who never made things worst

He'll take the bad end
Just to put you first

He'll risk his own freedom
Just to give you the world

There wasn't a river he wouldn't cross
To please his girl

He'd always think of your feelings
Instead of his own
He loved you for your mind
As if he was blind

He never gave fast sex
He always took his time

So when you talk about your man
Dante Hayes

You say he's one of a kind
The look in his eyes says it all
It's you he adores

So how do you match that
Without changing your route

Ya man he loves hard
No Question, No Doubt

A WOMAN THAT LOVES HARD

A woman that loves hard
They're not easy to play
They will open up their heart
And let you take it away
They will take your wrong doings
And say they're right
Just to keep ya'll from having
a terrible fight
They will put their life second
Just to keep you first
Everyday you're not smiling
Just makes things worst
They will sit around unhappy
as long as you're good
They will ignore all the warnings
And think that they should
They will accept late night creepin'
And blame themselves
They will make you share nothing
And split their wealth
They will do all the things to prove
They love their hand
Except love themselves first
or get a loving man
Dante Hayes

**GHETTO STORY**

See this is my ghetto story
See I remember sitting back
listen through days and nights
to my mother crying
from ragen fights
To seeing pain in her eyes
from daddy good nights
So I would walk into school
hoping for fights
Just to make it home early
And can't turn on the lights
So we all slept together
Because nights are cold
We made hot water off the stove
to fight the colds
See I remember days
When roaches owned the land
Wake up to eat ya favorite cereal
And a roach falls in ya hand
How about them days
Nike sneakers were cute
But for some reason
they never matched ya suit
See I remember times
The roof leaked when it rained
So instead of playing ball
I played empty the bucket
See I remember times I didn't check
before taken a shit
So once I was done
Only buckets of water
could empty the dish
See I remember saying
My life would be the game
Because I learned early
Dante Hayes

Exactly what was pain
My mother went to work daily
doing double shifts
Just to get off
feet hurting
to realize her life
was this
See
This is my Ghetto Story

Definition of Riding

See what's the definition of riding?
To me it's easy to see
I say it's keeping in mind
What our future could be
Taken our memories and storing them
Close to heart
Holding on to that joy
you felt from the start
Taking good and bad
As a evenly spread
Letting thoughts of betrayal
erase from ya head
Taking the feelings you feel
When I look in your eyes
Let that motivate you
When you fightin your pride
Remember I'm the one
who could put you to sleep
Let that be the reason
you never go weak
Take the words our love speaks
And realize what it means
We should never let anything
step in between
Take your friend's words
in one ear and out the other
Because when you needed someone
All we had was each other
Dante Hayes

Let ya conscience and soul
guide you right
Because only our love represents
an unbreakable light
Take your mother's morals
as a stepping stone
It taught real women
never leave their man alone
So at the end of the day
And everything been thought through
Your definition of riding will be to stand by ya boo

CHANGE

CHANGE!
That word alone is very complex
Because living life means growing with time
Being we're all humans I could never judge
We all live to learn
And learn from living
But there comes a time where
you should have learned enough
so days out of life
shouldn't be lived so rough
I understand true changes come with growth
And real growth comes
with elevating the mind
So if you look into yourself
You'll see
It's your time
See I believe in you
And you should too
So pushing you is something I'll forever do
I know you'll only change
At your own time
So I'll be the eyes
that watches you grow
Because wasting life
Is not for show
You're too beautiful of a person
Dante Hayes

to settle for less
Especially when you can have the best
I know you know this
deep down inside
Regardless of everything
You have my heart
I'll just love you much more
If you started living smart
All it takes is an opening of the mind
Change is that easy
Believe it's your time
Dedicated: To Kina “Kesh”

LOVE WITH NO VISION

The World shines when you smile
And erupts when you blow
Because your the daughter of a star
Although she doesn’t know
your loved by so many
and adored by the rest
But see I hold you very special
And dear to my chest
Although days are passing
And I'm not watching you grow
Are you a spittin image of her
see I'm just dying to know
They tell me your not so bad
and more beautiful
then I can imagine
But the fact I have to wonder
seems to always leave me sad
But see everything happen for a reason
It just takes wisdom to see
Now one day I can spoil you
And explain how we began to be

Dedicated to Gy-Gy “My Angel”
Dante Hayes

“ALWAYS THERE”

We're miles apart
I never see your smile
so let me tell you it's not my choice
You're growing so fast
also learning alot
but your father still is that missing spot
You know he's there
and loves you to death
but that could never override the pain in your chest
I could tell you sorry for I'm not there
but we all have to learn life isn't fair
So I'll save the apology as a lesson
and let you take this as one of god's blessings
I needed time away to view my life
because that's one thing we don't get twice
so the time we missed
will be all worth it
because I'll be there to tell you
no one's perfect
so soon you'll see
How much you are just like me
and how love is one thing
We got for free
Everything else
comes with a price
could you believe
I almost paid with our life
Truth be told
I'll do it all over again
Just to say
We made it to the end
My love is pure
never forget
No matter how many miles apart
my love will be sent

I love you Princess
Dante Hayes

LETTER TO RICK & WALLY

"Damn!" I know it's been a minute since I spoke to ya'll. I just hope ya'll know that ya'll stay in my heart. A lot of shit been going on. So where do I start? Most people believe that it's God lookin' Words from the Hood

over their head. See, I say it's my nigga's who be looking over the kid. "Shit" I almost blamed ya'll for having me doin' these bids. But being that ya'll know my heart's so true I know ya'll wouldn't give me nothing that I couldn't do. I hope ya'll wasn't mad when ya'll seen I was reppin' the blue.

Then again if ya'll were here ya'll be reppin' it too. But ya'll got to forgive me for splittin' ya'll up. I got to speak to ya'll differently to press my luck. "WALLY"

What up brah I miss you my dude. I hope you don't think I lied. When I said ya sis I'll be forever holdin' down. But bra on my daughter she be playing around. But on the name of you I never lost my love. And ya mom and the rest. They're doin' alright. But "Y.T." as we knew it. We ain't so tight. Uptown & the south done totally split. But I put it on my name I'm a try to fix that shit. See everybody bangin' and the hood is hot. I called out a few months back they told me Chris & neef got shot. The crazy part is. I couldn't tell my comrades to go out for revenge. You know me brah I don't get into beef between friends. So I just hope and pray nobody dies before the bullshit ends. It seems like I'm the only one who remembers the friendship we had. But until I get focus I can't worry out that. Just keep ya eye on me I know you got my back

"RICK"

What it been like with ya pretty ass. "LOL" I know you still doing ya do. Just know every time I fuck a hoe I do it for you. "Tisha" still bad you know I had her riding with me. I wish it was a place I could send a picture so you could see. I hope you ain't take it as disrespect when I took "Tisha" under the wing. But bra with a beauty like hers she was heaven sent. But she not here now. and only you know where she went. But bra it tasted good. You know I had to eat that shit. If shit went how I wanted she'll be my queen. But on another note to get to ya fam.
Dante Hayes

I ain't gone lie to you. I ain't seen ya mom in a few. But every time I
do I show my respects. She moved out the hood and I can't say where
I ran into ya brother a few times. I lost mad respect. Yo bra, when
you dropped a lot of people took it bad. But the the way ya mom took it.
The shit was sad. But ya bra chose the streets instead of holding her down.
So to keep it real with you, I don't like him coming around. But on the love
of you, I'm still gonna hold him down. Yo bra I got these pics
drew in my place. So when I fuck these hoes, they got to see ya face.
See bra I ain't been the same since that day. I just can't understand why
they took you away. yo that bitch "Christine" still in my life.
She dropped me a baby girl that's the only reason why.
I should have let you fuck her. Instead of taken her in. I learnt my
lesson. Never take a bitch over a friend. But bra my daughter she's the
greatest thing in my life. And the fact you can't see her makes more
pain. So how you got them hoes up there in that place. I don't know how
my life gone turn out. So keep some space. You know I been living
fast speaking through my gun. And both of ya'll know I'm a keep playin in the
streets. And as long as I'm in this world. I'm a speak ya'll name. And make
sure the hood does the same.

R.I.P

Wally & Rick

“YOU SEEN ME THROUGH”

From day one you did your best
to teach us to do all right
so let me tell you
you won that fight
a single parent
in my eyes
pops wasn't dead
but showed no support
and still you stood as a queen
and didn't stop short
so much I took you through
as a youngin
Sometimes I thought
you'll just walk away
Dante Hayes

To still see you by me
that next day
I never stopped to think
about the pain I caused you
To young living life
not thinking things through
What would I have done
if you’d left me too
No words can explain
What you mean to me
My stars, My moon
and something to be
My Princess will grow up
and be just like you
and finish off
that wonderful cycle
A good man I am
and all praise goes to you
I wanna say thank you
for seeing me through

Dedicated: To Debra Murph

A.S.I.Y.A

On August 21, 2006

Her life began
innocent an cute
without a sin
A whole life to live
in the cold ass world
Many thoughts in my head
of my pretty baby girl
What will she be
How will she act
A Queen she is
and that’s a fact
Can I guide her
Dante Hayes

to do all right
without her putting up
a terrible fight
Plenty dreams of her touching
the heavens
experiencing things I never did
Although she is the daughter
of a gangster
seeing a better life
is all I want
for my baby girl
Who knows no wrong
Her dad's a man
and stands one strong
incarcerated for doing wrong
One day we'll sit
and talk together
I'll tell her how it
all began
The drugs, the streets
and all within
And how she was
my only friend

FEELINGS DEEP INSIDE

The feelings I feel should be told
Knowing I love someone so beautiful
You look, I smile
You smile, I melt
It's the prettiest feelings I ever felt
Your touch I adore
You smell is secure
It's almost impossible
to love you anymore
Your eyes they glow
and that way I know
I reached a place
I wish for no man to go
Words from the Hood

Your kisses are so perfect
They take me to another surface
So loving you I know
is always worth it
After tasting your tongue
I wanna just sleep
so nothing can overpower
that taste that's so sweet
Your love I seeked
You gave I went weak
My mother always said
real love will make
me not speak
Making love to you leaves me open
It's as if I received my greatest token
Them memories I keep
deep down inside
That way I know the greatest sex
I had was with you by my side
the question I ask
is do you know
These feelings are something
I never let go
Let it out
and feel so weak
Hold it in
and feel defeat
Knowing the feelings I feel
did not come cheap
Somethings are better without being said
But will I lose your
by keeping this inside my head

Dedicated: Baby girl

IT USED TO BE US

It used to be us. Just me and you
We said if we stuck together, we'd make it through
Words from the Hood

It used to be us. Just me and you
Two hungry children not knowing what to do

It used to be us. Just me and you
Mom left us with pops just us two

It used to be us. Just me and you
Now I'm incarcerated and look what you do

It used to be us. Just me and you
How could you turn your back, no letter or two

It used to be us. Just me and you
We had each other's back, a two man crew

It used to be us. Just me and you
They say you think of me being away, untrue

It used to be us. Just me and you
We said if we stuck together, we'd make it through

It used to be us. Just me and you
Now I look for my sister and it's not us two

Dedicated: To Ta-Mecca D. Hayes

DO YOU REALLY KNOW

Your smile stops my heart
But always makes my day
Your frown breaks me down
And helps you get ya way
Your hugs can stop my pain
And fully take it away
Your eyes tell a story
That keeps me sane
You need your father
So I'm ending the game
Dante Hayes

You grab my hand
And I squeeze yours tight
Just a lil more longer
And we'll be alright
I give you a kiss
and you push me away
As if that's your way of sayin
Hold it until that day
You say "Daddy I Love You"
And I know it's so
I tell you "You're the reason I live"
But do you really know
I Love you Princess

MY RESPONSE

See I remember being awaken
and tossed out the room
But being this wasn't the first time
how doesn't a child's curiosity grow
so this time I stayed around
because I needed to know
Remember doors with no door knobs
so the opening was my answer
But see once I looked inside
my hero was lost
my wall of image came tumbling down
brick by brick in my heart
just turned into dust
See I had built my father's image
from strength and the morals of man
But my eyes were witnessing him
smoking crack threw a can
How could he do that to his boys
How could he be weak like that
Now all I was left to do
is to turn my back
See this is the man who's suppose
to teach me to be strong
Dante Hayes

But young or not
I knew
This lesson was wrong
What do I do?
Who's going to teach me
was the question I asked myself
Then the thought came
that you showed me
Before I had to face this fact
So I stored the good memories inside
and subtracted the rest
not knowing
my father would never again
hold that special space in my chest
Pops I know up to that point
you did your best
And I turned out Ok, as you can see
but my journey wasn't as bad
As I thought it'll be
So if you ever asked yourself
Where did you go wrong?
or How did we lose our bond?
I guess this will have to be
how I respond

I still Love you Dad

A LETTER TO GOD

Dear, God. Are you sincere God?
People waiting for you to free 'em from the
jungle. Are you near God. You see that
water on our face. That's a tear God. Can you
hear God? Or do you care God? Cause I've
gotten to the point. I can't fear God. Cuz I've prayed,
because they said it was good for my health. But
nothing seemed to happen, if I ain't do it myself. While
my people waitin on you to come, and cleanse their souls
An after all these years, they haven't reached their goal. They say
you sent your son, as the ultimate sacrifice. But I can't
Words from the Hood

help but feel like my people are paying twice. Cuz if he payed for our sins, on that day. Why are we still stuck in poverty, and gettin treated this way? I've tried to keep faith, and always believe. Unto I seen a child hungry crying down on her knees That's all it took for me to lose my faith. Because I never knew pain until I seen her face. And through all her pain, she still had her head to the sky. Although she couldn't barely say the words. She asked you "Why?" She couldn't have been the first to send a message to the Almighty Divine. But no one got an answer after all this time. The reality hit me hard. I felt cheated inside. My people been looking to you to lead, to guide. To end up with nothing but grief on their side. So I could no longer look for you to do in my life. It was time for me to acknowledge the power of man, and the things we can achieve, when we think we can. Some say I'm wrong for second guessing the divine. Other's say I'm a disbeliever, and called me "Shayton". I simply say it's reality, once we open our mind.

NO WORDS CAN EXPRESS

If I could tell you what you mean to me. What words would I use? "My love, My joy, My friend, My strength my hope, my chance to elope"

If I could tell you what having you in my arms would feel like. What words would I say? "Love, no pain, a touch I adore, special romance, a force I can't ignore."

If I could tell you what kissing you would feel like. What words would I use? "Soft, fun, passionate, sweet, our tongues dancing to their own lil beat."

If I could tell you what being inside you felt like. What words would I say? "So soft, so tight, so good, so wet, a cream to taste, a zone, a dream to never erase."

If I could tell you what your eyes speak when I look into them. What words would I use? "Pain, heartbreak, sorrow, fed up with the games." Love, Thanks, no worry, no fear. Just from the fact you know I am here." No words can express what I feel in my chest. So I'll simply say "Thanks for giving ya best!"

Peace
Dante Hayes

A NATURAL NUBIAN QUEEN YOU ARE

If you could fly like an eagle
To search the sea
With your mind on the goal
ain’t no telling what you could be
If I taught you about your ancestors
and the greatness they’ve made
Only then can you understand all that they have paid
It’s time to teach you you’re a Queen
And how to love your nubian beauty
so there’s no need to alter looks
To feel you are a cutie
Always remember your first impression
is what the locker perceives
So never keep your dress hanging
above your knees
Look into the earth
to weather your health
It’s natural, pure wonders
like the black women herself
So to be an honorable, intelligent women
will not come cheap
I just hope that your
self respect, and dignity
Is what you will keep
So love yourself
and you’ll go far
A Nubian Queen
that you are

Dedicated: To my nieces and little Queens of the world
ROYALTY

They say never take a person for granted
Always value a friend
That's why I hope and pray
You never let your loyalty end
See many people walked into my life
And tried to make their mark
But only you managed
to enter my heart
It scared me at first
Because it wasn't part of the plan
But I couldn't deny
How you were playing your hand
You gave it real
And kept it true
Those two things I always
Admired in you
That's why I honored your place
And appreciated your loyalty
vowed to give the same
Because to me you're
Royalty

Dedicated: To Annie McCoy

FIRST WORDS TO NIYA

See I've been contemplating of words to say
And how to spoil you
When we reach that day
Although you have two great parents
So there's no fear
I'm your god dad
who loves you dear
You've just reached one
and it came so fast
I've prayed you could stay young
So your innocence could last
I know that's not so
so we will watch you grow
Teach you the things
Dante Hayes

you need to know
Like beauty, morals, and self respect
What's a good man
When it's time to select
The value of education
and loving your race
That natural beauty
that you see in your face
We have the rest of your life
And so much to teach
So we'll stand beside you
As you continue to reach
For now I'll send my love
and happiness your way
And wish you the best
on your special day

Dedicated: To my God-Daughter "Zahniya"

TWO BODIES ONE PAIN

Life's Reall
So I feel pain when my brother aches
Devastated because he just can't catch a break
I shiver watching tears coming down his face
Rejected at every turn because his of his skin color
His whole family keeping warm under one cover
In mother's living room harsh reality that he discovers
Disappointment is the look in his girl eyes
His little daughter still naive; yet she still cries
Alone waiting for an answer to them silent "Whys"
Lost hope years ago for them he still strives
Agony to depression forced to live in their perceptions
Of a black man who can't provide
Coincidentally the system is never on his side
he's so ready to risk it all
Consequences seeming small
So self bent on his pride
He neglects to ask for a helping hand
Words from the Hood

Little brother or his sister; crazy ego of a man
Little brother gets the passage
Eyes the keys to the soul
Little brother never speaks- on the things that he knows
A little way to save face - or not add to his disgrace
Big brother chooses path
Quick avenue to that cash
The only option he feels he has
To put his life in a proper perspective
But see the streets has a way
To begin pouring on a rainy day
So little brother deals with the burden
If he would of found the words to say
Could the outcome have been different
Could he have braced his brother's fall
At least he deserved to know
That together we could of stood tall

Dedicated: To Bobby "Bosh" Hayes

SALUTES

Intelligent and strong
A proud brother
So I'll forever
cherish and adore
my child's mother
You put your life on the line
to give birth to my seed
I'll put my life on the line
to provide whatever you need
Nothing more beautiful in the world
Then to see you nurture my daughter
So I salute you everyday
for the things you taught her
What's more stronger then a woman
Who throws it all on her back
While I was upstate for them years
You picked up my slack
Dante Hayes

and never complained once
about the years I couldn't give back
It's always honor in a woman
embracing the struggle of life
Acknowledging her mistakes
and never making them twice
No need to live in the past
It's ok we didn't last
You will forever have a friend
No pretend
Everything I'm saying is true
Although my daughter is my all
You hold apart of me too
So look past all the times
we had to bicker and fight
You know you got that big mouth
Always thinking you right
so regardless of the fact
you didn't ride my bld
and I will never forgive you
for having
a kid
You will forever be loved
for the things you did

Salute Chrys

SUPERWOMAN

They said superwoman was fiction
she couldn't be real
See I knew they were not telling the truth
because here's the deal

They said superwoman was strong
and incredible woman
A woman who was destined
to beat all odds

They said superwoman was fearless
she'll always stand her ground
Dante Hayes

she faced every obstacle
that came around

They said superwoman had vision
she seen it all
She tried to fix all problems
big or small

They said superwoman she loved
with all her heart
She'll give you her all
from the start

They said superwoman would fly
to reach some souls

She'll take you with her
to reach your goals

They said superwoman would fight
no matter woman or man
She never thought twice
when it came to lending a hand

They said super woman was bad
That woman was great
A woman like that
cold never be fake

They said superwoman was fiction
I knew it couldn't be true
Because I looked to my mother
and Superwoman was you

A MAN YOU'VE NEVER KNOWN

Can you truly have love for a man
That you have never known
Unconditional is something
I was never shown
Plenty vices rolling round
from a broken home
Now, I'm grown
and find myself feeling all alone
Do I roam through the pain
or let this stress take my brain
Too many thoughts are untamed
Too close to insane
So I release it all through my pen
Just to try and comprehend
What I was missing most
My lover or my friend
Real love will never end
Friends will always care for you
You might feel mistreated
Like I was never there for you
As if I didn't care for you
See the truth is
I just had to find myself
A little soul searching
Put the focus on your health
All my misusing and abusing
had finally came to light
How I had used you as an escape
from facing my inner fight
So now I'm contemplating
on how to make things right
become that man of your dreams
That man that I seemed
Your armor or your knight
That man I should have been
Your lover and your friend
If I had truly knew myself
I could have loved you to the end
Unconditional is something
I was never shown
Can you truly have loved a man
that you've never known
Words from the Hood

A DISH OF REVOLUTION

It's no secret that revenge
is better served a cold dish
I was told a real man
never allows it to exist
Eye for an eye
Most would say they're honoring people
Domesticated in many ways
This the the white mans sequel
The civil was their biggest hoax
Blacks spilling blood for the land
Just to help the industrialist devils
put a buck in they hands
Now they screaming assault rifles
are infesting our streets
It took some white kids to get killed
In order for them to speak
Sandy Hook, a real tragedy
something just doesn't add to me
Racism the real ravage see
I was holding guns
before I was old enough to work
and Black kids been dying
before they even knew what hurts
Troy Davis they knew was innocent
They still assassinated that man
Treyvon Martin murderer walks free
they found the gun in his hand
under law it's "Stand your Ground"
In reality he killed that man
because he ain't like him around
Across town
the same state
I guess governments change face
A women got twenty years
being threatened in her own estate
No bodily harm was done
Just a bullet in the ceiling
A little something to scare him up
Preventing her from killing
Dante Hayes

She was black
She had to pay
got arrested the same day
All across this country
blacks get treated
the same way
Tell me what exactly
is justice and peace
When everyday I open my eyes
I see injustice increase
So if you ever want revenge
and wanna allow it to exist
Honor your black race
serve Revolution as your dish

A YOUTH’S TESTAMENT

My charge was murder
But I was sentenced to eight years
But facing my conviction
Never brought me any tears
But see the secret was hidden
Cuz see, my chances was lost
So allow me to tell you
Exactly what was the cost
See they say rehabilitation
is to be
But that’s not what you’ll see
They care nothing about your growth
And could care less about their oath
Finances are paid
To keep bringing us down
They cry for a better society
But there’s more prisons around
These prisons could never help us
be civilize
We’re treated worst than cattle
Stuck fighting a lonely battle
We’re fed the food
Words from the Hood

You wouldn’t feed your pet
And are sold the items
band by vets
These conditions could saddlin’
The happiest life
And also coldin’
The goodest heart
But they knew what would happen
from the start
They see us as property
or more or less, investments
believe me
This is a Youth’s Testament

P.E.A.C.E

LIES FROM HIS-STORY

They say columbus discovered this land
How could that be
When he landed, them black hands
was the welcome he could see
W.E.B. was a great scholar
until he sold us out
I swear he hurt the black race
when he took that route
Lincoln addressed us as property
instead of human beings
how could the emancipation be what it seems
B. T. Washington did a lot to bring us up
from slavery
but the world forgot to salute him
for all his bravery
Assata Shakur said the C.I.A tried
to corrupt the blacks
so they put some shells in her
to hide those facts
They told me Thanksgiving was
Dante Hayes

the day of the feast
They just left out the part that
slaughter ended the peace
Christianity says B.C. is the beginning of time
When you think of the oldest landmark
pyramids enter your mind
They say Amerikkka is the land of the free
somehow we were enslaved the longest here
How could that be
some say history is the key to go back
I say it's all his-story when
you research your facts

VICTORY

Your eyes they seen it all
so your mind replays it slow
From the drugs, shootings, stabbings
How could I be so low
And with you not having your pops
around
I should of known I'd be your idol
But instead I showed you
genocide
Thinking I was showing you
How to ride
I'm sorry I didn't know
Instead of teaching you
How to shoot fast
I should of been teachin you
How to behave in class
But through time I had to grow
So I showed you the things
I felt was right
Who knew I was fightin
The white man's fight
Nobody ever told me
So I brought mayhem to my community
Dante Hayes

Screaming out
All in the name of unity
So I became an urban terrorist
Losing all respect for another black man
But see all this madness started
from the deception of this land
So it's real easy to get caught
playing their hand
Especially when your steady misguided
during the course of becoming a man
So I'll tell you there's no limit
of what you can be
Because education is the key
See it took a lot of knowledge
for me to see
Exactly what was unity
Now I can speak on peace and love
And know my vision is clear
And as long as ya'll don't repeat my history
I can finally say I've reached
Victory

Dedicated: To Marquis and Boshjier

TO TRULY BE FREE

I was told that power was knowledge
So knowledge is the key
And only a higher elevation
could set me free
I was told be patient young brother
You'll grow with time
But never settle for
wasting the mind
Be open to his-story
But research history
Cuz only that can lead you
to selecting a victory
I was told to keep my eyes open
Dante Hayes

and always be conscious of my stand
Because honorable people judge
the morals of man
I was told to view my community
And acknowledge where it's at
To come up with a solution
Of why is that
I was told to look at life
To learn my place
And realize I'm the future
for my race
I was told that power was knowledge
So knowledge is the key
And only a higher elevation
could set me free

Dedicated: To My Nephews

THE EVILS WITHIN

Take these lines and let me know if you can relate.
I'm a promise breaker
Words from the Hood

Cold hearted violent raper
Spread the word of the lord
Then dishonorably take ya
I'm a mind abuser
Claim to love you, just to use ya
I'm that vow you make to stand by them until you grow old
But by the end of the night you breaking your code
I'm that pedophile stalking the young
That revengeful young boy
toting his gun
I'm the reason mother's can't sleep at night
That dreadful dream they continue to fight
I'm the people who viciously take land without pay
Then turn around and call it a holiday
Words from the Hood

I'm the addict who can look in your eyes
Knowing they aren't telling the truth
Them acts of open rage
That you see in our youth
I'm what you should call a loser
That babysitter who sinfully lusts
right before she starts to abuse ya
I'm the reason you depend on drugs
Looking for an escape
I'm the reason schools are closing
But gas is going up at an dishonorable rate
I'm what you call the minority
Which is mostly the majority of states
I'm all you can feel after being locked in a cage
All over what one mistake in the acts of rage
I'm disappointment,

lies
I'm Hate
I'm the reason you feel we could never be equal
I'm Evil
I'm what you can find in most of
America's people

WHO HURTS MORE?

Is it him?
The dude with the one leg
Who shoots in the park all day
Jumper after jumper
Free throw after free throw
Lay-up after lay-up
Lost his hoop dreams
Cause a few teens
Thought he was- who he wasn't...
Or is it her
Single mother-two kids
No father-kids father don't bother
Full help from Grandmother
Grandma dies
Dante Hayes

Leaves granddaughter stuck
Now she blames everybody
Public assistance don’t help
She shit outta luck
So she sells herself...
Or is it that baby
Mommy baby-daddy’s maybe
He stuck in the streets
Baby momma stuck in the sheets
She think suck’n & fuck’n will help the baby eat
she in her groove “ooh Daddy ooh”
Not watching lil’ man or even care where he go
Lil’ man swift- he hungry as shit
He headed to the bathroom - grab the bleach
took a sip
She shaking in the room
She got her last nut
Lil’man shaking next door
Died from his last gulp...
Or is it him?
Of’ boy a boss in the streets
Real in tune with the hood
Matter fact, the hood in tune with he
To sum it all up,the young nigga was a “G”
Got locked,did time,for a sale to a “D”
Come home-fresh out-now he even more focused
Money coming quicker-now more fiends even hopeless
Judge Rice told him twice
“You come back, you’ll get life”
So he planned his moves nice
Hit the block and got right
He vowed to his wife,baby this the last flip
He hit the strip with intentions on really calling it quits
The sale came up-“Ay Hood you got that kid?”
Something told him to say NO!
But he didn’t
Now he at his sentence
Yeah them four letters hurt
He could’ve came home-been a man- and just worked
He looked back at his pregnant wife
no sight of tears just smiles...
Words from the Hood

There is no such thing as less-when it comes to feelings
Parents are gone-but there is still hope for our children
Day after day people are hit by stray shots
Single mothers are left on their own-men, kids
are dying as I write this poem
Many caring fathers will never come home or
even get a chance to ever do right
all pain eventually makes you cry
So my question is “Who Hurts More”
You decide! Because it's all the same in my eyes

TIME TO TAKE A STAND

Young girls are having babies
way before they become ladies
While babies are dropping dead in the world
This shit is crazy
Men are impregnating babies
of ladies they claim to love
While young ladies are grabbing
crotches of grown men they ask for hugs
Young men are influencing young ladies
to turn their babies into thugs
While young ladies are half way crazy
Running through the world looking for love
Young girls are learning to shake their ass
Way before they learn to brush their teeth
While young men are getting life
in this world in search of peace
Young ladies are being fucked
by men who could be their fathers’
While young men are selling their
soul in the name of a dollar
young men are living by the gun
While young ladies are steady
going on the run
Men are taking the back seat
While young ladies are being beat
Now it has gotten to the point
Young men are using their feet
Dante Hayes

Young girls are looking so grown
While young men are growing alone
Neither one had a place to call home
Young men are forced to sell drugs
    Just to get some food
While young women are forced to strip
    Just to pay for school
Men are doing the unthinkable
Sneaking under our babies sheets
While young men are being schooled by women
    on how to beat their meat
Young women are turning their kitchen into labs
While young men are steady being put on slabs.
    Neither knew their dads
Young women are becoming bitches
    with no idea of what's a woman
While young men are becoming convicts
    in search of what's a man
Somebody tell me what's going on in this land
    It's time for the real women and men
    TO PLEASE

TAKE A STAND

STRUGGLES WITHIN THE PEN

I was told be humble
    and think of the best
The struggles behind these walls
    are only a test
The situations I would face
    would make me a man
or I could submit to these devils
    and lose my stand
So I pondered the wise words
    and weighed my options
A young man stuck in a bad dream
Words from the Hood

facing unknown scenes
One day I was living life
Next day, I was facing life
Now I'm stuck in a damn pen
Absorbing the smells of men
Seeing men who didn't snitch
Some becoming a man's bitch
Other's got left behind
Plenty dudes who lost their mind
I can't forget about the real
Those few who knew the deal
I seen hoods on dudes skin
and still they checked in
I met dudes who banged true
Others that flipped their crew
So I vowed in my heart
Them things I'd never do
I seen pigs with no respect
and real niggas was quick to check
Some pig bitches that gave it up
In bargain of that buck
I seen food served, I can't describe
some ate just to survive
I witnessed dudes that got no mail
others that wish they didn't
No one was prepared for those
words that were written
I spoke to dudes with lots of hope
Many with falling dreams
I seen dudes stuck in denial
so it is never what it seemed
I seen plenty men try to call home
To hear there's a block on the phone
Other dudes that had a choice
call home and hear another man's voice
I witnessed all this shit
and knew this was hell
where souls are lost
hearts turn cold
and ignorants call it Jail
Believe it or not
Dante Hayes

it all made me strong
i took the good and the bad
and continue to push on
Even though i'll never forget
all the men who were torn
i came in a lost child
and a man was born
AS

A

MAN
DEATH BY THE PREVENTABLE

Statistics say I'm 50 percent likely
to die from a stroke
The streets say I'm 80 percent likely
to die from a bullet in the throat
So I'll ask
Is there any hope

In 2009 over 150,000 invasive cancer cases were diagnosed
And over 65,000 blacks became ghost
Are we toast

As an african American it's a 1.6 chance I'll become
a diabetic
Yet these whites are more that 80 percent
of the F.D.A
where my diet is inspected
I guess as a black I shouldn't question
the fact that my death is expected

My black sisters are 40 percent likely
to die from breast cancer
all that means is
White women are 60 percent likely
to get a better answer

In 2007 statistics showed blacks accounted for
51 percent of over 42,000 new cases of H.I.V
and were 48 percent of the over 551,000
people caring in 34 states
Is A.I.D.S the modern birth control
or our lost chance to procreate

Statistics show I'm at 8 percent rate
higher for depression
Yet denies I'm at a 100 percent rate higher
for this country's oppression
Brother's research these facts
Then ask yourself that question

PEACE
Dante Hayes

GREATNESS WITHIN HONOR

What will they call you when you're dead
Who will you be if you're free
What does it take to be great
or will the world ever see
i can stand strong like Malcolm
or believe like Martin
stand fearless like Assata
and bear arms like Bobby
start a revolution like Huey
or have a mind like George Jackson
spread the word like Pac
or go to war like Mao
Face oppression like Fidel
or take respect like Rosa
stand by my people like Harriet
or revenge them like Nat Turner
Educate like Clarence
or sacrifice like Shocka
Protect my land like an Arab
or use my hands like Booka
Have knowledge like an Egyptian
even then you'll be criticized
And viewed a certain way
so believe in yourself
Who cares what they say
some people are born to hate
some learn it by day
so always follow your heart
And you'll be going the right way
No need to wonder what will people think
or consider others expectations
with so much evil in the world
You'll never know who our facing
so just take a conscience stand
honor your contribution
Only then can you know
how it feels to be free
When you control your own fate
Words from the Hood

so you'll die with dignity
and that's the meaning of great

IN THE IMAGE OF YOU

I ask my family to sit back and listen
as I release a few thoughts
I send this salute to my mother
for the things I was taught
I acknowledge your dedication
and honor your endless sacrifice
I send my humblest thanks to you
Just for giving me life
Through you I experienced
the true essence
of what a woman should be
confident, proud, and dignified
A pure blessing to see
Through all obstacles you built a life
Selfless acts for your children
Devoting time all endless nights
Installing values of what was right
So due to you, I see the light
As I'm confined in this dungeon
It's your wisdom I juggle
And through the strength you passed on
Is how I survive through the struggle
I've come to understand
you couldn't teach me
The full definition
of what was a man
yet you managed to give the greatest lesson
The honor in taking a stand
so for you I elevate
because your nothing less than great
And with your legacy at stake
Genocide can't be my fate
I'll continue to teach
as I was taught
and continue to love as I was loved
Dante Hayes

And until that time
I reach
my highest pew
I'll walk this earth in the image of you
Love you Mom

IT'S STILL HOPE

Have you ever had a front row seat
to a mad man's dream
to the point your body never sleeps
because of terrible scenes
I'm talking a dark place
where souls are lost
vows get broken
and love one's pay the cost
Unspeakable actions
for wicked satisfactions
Dishonoring oaths
allowing no one to get close
Savage Bastard
cold hearted violent fuck
but your mind gets transformed
so your thoughts are that you're living it up
The ego of a man
says you're just not giving a fuck
Here's the horror of your actions
because no one is safe
Your own mother can be a victim
in the change of a face
"I PUT ON"
It's like we're singing a song
embracing others evil
Is how we get along
So now we say we live by the gun
somehow we've reached the point
and think that killing is fun
Misguided youths
some release their pain by the booth
Dante Hayes

I tell you the truth
This pen is how I found my way
and see my demons were released
so to my youngins, I will say
It's still Hope

STRONG FEET

Here's your chance to listen
to the words that were said
from the passion from the struggles
that been roaming through my head
from the love, to the pain, the betrayals, to deceit
Through all my transgressions
I'm still standing on my feet
understanding my misconceptions
that got me sitting in this seat
Overpowered by corruption
but couldn't settle for defeat
How do I deal with my regrets
and that heavy little fact
from the burdens in my thoughts
that I can't bring a life back
misconstrued in my vision
of what made me a man
Invincible kind of power
with that gun in my hand
A little part of my destruction
careless with who I'm trusting
Inhaling drugs that never helped
just lead to open lustig, disgusted
I had to change my view
sometimes I didn't think
some things I had to do, True
I still paid the price
It's no illusion when I say
I'm missing my daughter's life
Trife,
also lost my wife
she fell victim to the pressure
Words from the Hood

of hearing them offer me L.I.F.E
Fascinated with the fame, glamour, and bliss
so things took a twist
I was fighting for freedom
While she became a list
Bliss
or just worthless fucks
Regardless of the reasons
she was giving it up, sad
See I couldn’t be mad
because she was giving her all
I took her all for granted
Giving love to everything else
that existed on this planet
so now that you’ve heard
all the words that I speak
view my love,
view my pain
view my struggles and deceit
Then you put it all together
You’ll see why I stand on strong feet

I SPEAK YA TONGUE

Ayo you speak fluently in that
What’s that your native tongue
eye for and eye head to head
O yeah I speak by the gun
I seen a mother heart stop
because she lost her son
seen a shorty take some
Big enough to fit in a drum
youngin wild out, and let loose
All drunk off the rum
So now you feel I’m like you
Finally got your attention
Sit back, relax, I got somethings
I should mention
Words from the Hood

I seen a child take one
i'm talking one to the head
and she was still around the age
she still pissed in the bed
out playing hop scotch
and they filled her with lead
Young brother took a whole clip
all over a rag
He wore red, you wore blue
I guess you honored your flag
An understatement to say
this genocide is nothing but sad
Over my block, no conversation
We speak our words through the gun
Grabbing choppers
to let loose
so them niggas can't run
hitting everything besides the target
Instincting our own race
Caught an old woman from behind
Bullet exited her face
This my turf, who gives a fuck
If our communities safe
Nobody rats, the code of honor
While you earn your name
What's fucked up
You chose this life
Whole civilians being forced in the game
See it's all fun for the name's sake
Fun until your man break
Fun until that "L" on ya back
like a name plate
So listen for the game sake
Realize it done changed pace
Before you become another statistic
in an insane race
O Yeah, I speak fluently in this
I once spoke ya tongue
Then I woke up
and realized
there was something else to become
Dante Hayes

BLINDED BY LOVE

Old lady said she loves him
plus he's sick in the bed
so she avoids all the signs
that he's sick in the head
that she'll never see
until he's leaving her dead
Young boy seen a cutie
and thinks she's one of a kind
so he never takes the time
to see what roams her mind
young girl has beauty
but lacks self-esteem
so she thinks she'll find herself
laying in different beds
Young boy has his queen
or so he thinks
He was moving off of lust
so the young boy paid
she gave him what he wanted
and left him with A.I.D.S
Young girl said he's fly
a hell of a guy
Everytime he opens his mouth
He's telling a lie
he's slick with his tongue
so she's forever head over hills
so she never pushes to know
all that he feels
Young girl falls in love
giving her best
While dude is running game
and sees her as a test
By the time she realizes
she's giving so much
so now she's at the point
that she hates a man's touch
see the moral of this story is
We all want to be in love
Words from the Hood

just don’t be blinded or lust
and always get to know your spouse
before your giving your trust

WHO DO YOU TELL

Who do you tell?
When these walls become more than you can
handle
Who do you tell?
When your brain seems no more than just
a mantle
Who do you tell?
That he’s been falsefully incarcerated
for forty years
And on Administration Segregation
for twenty
Who do you tell?
That they removed the slave owners
and replaced the administration
Who do you tell?
That they removed the overseers
and replaced them with Lieutenants and Sergeants
Who do you tell?
That they took away the whips
but brought in the night sticks
Who do you tell?
That they removed the chains
but left the cuffs and shackles
Who do you tell?
When Justice and Peace
becomes Just us, the only piece
Who do you tell?
That they made the rules
but were the first to break them
Who do you tell?
“Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?”
“Who will guard the guards”
Dante Hayes

DEVASTATED STILL DEDICATED

How do I explain
so you can understand
my devastations
Overpowered by my struggles
so my mental wasting, intrigued
from different books
incomprehensive of what was took
Entrap my body and soul
my mind,
can’t let it go
Intellectual brother
Identical to my mother
so vigorous and proud
but yet
some just see a common crook
speak up too loud
They call me crazy
No actions
they say I’m lazy
Look, what the systems made me
Hooked by the governments plan
incarcerated young black man
Robbed of my youth
so I openly tell the truth
I’m really hostile now
Dehumanized in the most inhumane way
Locked away to self decay
Vicious devils I’m taught to idealize
Who sympathizes on what’s begun
No sympathy
for misused
property
confused from what’s inside of me
Emancipated
or someone lied to me
promises
Worthless words of propaganda
Rehabilitation
Words from the Hood

A word relevant to my slander
How can you fix what is not broke
These systems don't work
rejected by my society
Friends and family can't comprehend
the misuse and abuse
one endures up in the pen
Yet one still strives
to keep an open mindset
Even when he can't predict the process
One still reaches toward progress
A privilege to take a look
of what I profess in this
book
of the strength that it took
to keep one's priorities intact
So even if you can't understand
my devastation
Acknowledge my dedication
To all that was taken

MOBILIZE

I speak for my single mother
Young brothers
and the comrades suffering
Who depend on legislations
While the government be fucking 'em
Young mothers with no aspiration for latex
Three children
and yet they get a half of paycheck
Aggressive for no reason
Abusing drugs every season
Savage brother
unfit mother
This is how the outer shell be
first violation
no warning
see they jail me
yet we're suppose to be free
but when you do the mathematics
Blacks get locked 2 out of 3
So allow me to give you the science
on this war on drugs
and this delusion that you have
They're being tough on thugs
While Nixon was campaigning
that drugs was a sin
This "war on drugs" got passed two years
before the drug problem began
This led to open season on the ghettos
stop and frisk for the youth
and those who dared to deny
gave the excuse for abuse
the fourteenth Amendment was in place
to prevent discrimination in the courts
Yet at every level we plead the fourteenth
ty they be stopping it short
Then Reagan took Nixons advice
Target blacks
then deny it's about race
which led to our blindness
and help put mass incarceration in place
Yet violent crimes is equivalent
to 20 percent of the system
and 2 percent of that is white
I guess corruption done missed them
and the 80 percent that's left
is unviolent drug offenses
and the ratio that's black is straight out senseless
How can we not see Amerikkka
has left us defenseless
Then they say getting arrested is our luck
As felons see we stuck
stripped our vote
or legal bucks
Decent housing out of touch
and then they yell that we're corrupt
Misconduct is a norm
that keeps a comrade in a storm
have one really feeling fucked
Dante Hayes

either all blacks go bad luck
or majority is out of touch
Misconceptions leaves us stuck
so I'll enlighten on behalf of those few
who know with a little mass mobilization
exactly what we can do

Peace

REDEMPTION MINDSET

I can be criticized
Ridiculed to no end
but I am not with genocide
politicified
I won't bend
see I lost plenty guys
certified
my best friend
I was locked in a white man's jungle
elevating
giving them a black man's rumble
with no letters
no mail
not even a rumble
I strived off of knowledge
and it made me humble
So now I can stand strong
and recover my fumble
I was lost for a while
now I see
I paid the cost for my prowl
so now I'll be
another poor righteous teacher
Elevating to three
Understanding four to get to five
No more living so free
living up to that father
My daughter wants me to be
I sacrificed a lot for my friends
Words from the Hood

and lost so much
so now I vow to put my daughter
in front of that buck
Teach the young comrades in the struggle
the real values of man
so through this knowledge
gods i will build
conscious men are born
so black brothers can live on
Black brother's will live strong
Black brother's can live long
Now men are steady dying
by the hand of ignorant men
erasing our own existence
In the name of a friend
Some brothers just don't know
closed minds just won't grow
I was once amongst the many
who did not know
so it's my duty to show
that life gives much more
then what the streets can offer
so for my dudes who want more
I'm extending you this offer
keep your guns by your side
be less quick to shoot
put some knowledge in your brain
and let the seeds root
The road dudes are taking
they're ending up
as a lifers
acknowledge all my words
It's knowledge in this cipher

CONFUSED BROTHER

No more fighting for this land, understand
Confused Brother
Words from the Hood

It's time to take a stand be a man
Confused Brother
No more misusing and abusing your baby mother
Confused Brother
How you treat a black queen like shit
disgracing your own mother
Confused Brother
Don't be so quick to shoot another black
man understand
Confused Brother
Stop thinking you apart of this land
Confused Brother
no more leaving ya kids to grow all alone
Confused Brother
How you call a white woman a queen
Confused Brother
Before you use the word Queen
Learn what it mean
Confused Brother
Stop embracing foreign religions from other lands
Confused Brother
Stop saying you were made in his image
Confused Brother
The black sister is considered a friend
Confused Brother
Learn to love the color of your skin
Confused Brother
Stop killing in the name of a friend
Confused Brother
Stop tormenting and terrorizing your community
Confused Brother
Create another way to produce cash for your family
Confused Brother
Why you choose the streets, just to snitch
Confused Brother
It's ok, just admit you a bitch
Confused Brother
Teach your daughter to be an honorable woman
Confused Brother
Your son might learn to love you if you are there
Confused Brother
Dante Hayes

Tell your family you just want them to care
Confused Brother
All that pain, don't hold it in, you can share
Confused Brother
And doing all that I told you to do
Produces A
Proud Brother
Confused Brother

RELEASING IT THROUGH THE HAND

I'm mad at a lot of things
Mostly sad for the world
Men calling themselves me
While raping our baby girls
Obama our first black President
Five more who's unknown
Americans stuck in poverty
While China is making clones
Soldiers dying over oil
saluting their great land, s.m.h
Civilians dying over hunger
No government lending a hand
Police shooting young black men
At an alarming rate
So once one loses his life
should I care about his fate
no more proper procedure
some never seeing a gun
but he'll release his whole clip
as if the shit was fun
no outcries from the community
for him they'll march for peace
In the name of liberation
I wouldn't care if it increased
Our army can enter third world countries
and slaughter a whole family
and somehow we still try to justify
I can kill a man
Dante Hayes

who tries to shoot me
and no one can turn an eye
I can easily tame my anger
why should I hide my rage
They told me I was wrong
for protecting my life
Then locked me in a cage
See the time helped me
to understand
That the world sees things as just
When it's in the name of this land
and will easily condemn you
If you individually take a stand
so I chose to keep my anger
and release it through my hand

Peace

REVERSE ROLES

Let's reverse this shit around
and make these predators
become their prey
time to rationalize
and bring some gunfire into play
make a politician feel that gauge
for his many lies
Let the last thing he see
is the pain in a mother's eye
Burn a legislature on a stage
for all them laws
that's in the way for us
Only then you speak freely of deceit
as they turn to dust
Lock them cuffs on police
until they turn to rust
or beat him with the baton
until his head bust
No regrets for the fact
It's daily done to us
Words from the Hood

Throw a judge in a dungeon
until his final fate
and deny his chance for freedom
for they damn sake
At this rate you would think
the pain is quite enough
Don't be naive and forget
about the other stuff
Force their kids in a school system
where they're bound to fail
Teach 'em lies of history,
and how their race was in the pits of hell
Either they learn their inferior
or put them in jail
Migrate their race to regions on the earth
that's improperly kept
and as the struggle to survive
just cry that we are in debt
and at that point where genocide
starts to coexist
Just blame the mind frame of a savage
an say they can't resist
Reverse Roles

REALITY OF LIFE

I been tripping over all kinds of things
I'm at war with my thoughts
trying to put it all together
from the things I was taught
from the drama on the block
from the soft to the rock
from the hand to the pot
To that heart when it stop
from that fiend being popped
To a youngin' being locked
that young girl giving top
providing food in her spot
To that mother feeling rage
can't get her son up out that cage
Dante Hayes

To the corruption of the system
It's like the whites it always missed them
That young father having doubt
If the child is really his
That young women with the decision
does she tell her man the truth
Terrified of the facts
will it lead to abuse
or just another fatherless youth
That man with the dilemma
of how to bring food to the table
or the agony
that one feels he is not able
To the pressure of your bills
you're not eligible for subsidy
and bonds deteriorate
that leave you fighting for custody
To that vet who use drugs
just to deal with life
or the addict on the strip
who tries to endure
he lost his wife
To the child who goes to school
and gets tormented about his clothes
To the deception that life is better
on the corner pushing o's
Will it ever get easier
This is life no one knows
as I decipher all my thoughts
Reality is, most fighters
come out on their toes

LOSING 2

I called out to get the fucked up news
that my brother took a bullet to the face
I'm glad to say
My Gee is still apart of the race
I'm sure it hurt your heart
that I didn't call to check on you
Words from the Hood

see bra I was sick inside
on if those few sounds were mournings
All the things I would of had to do
because of loyalty to you
My emotions are true
So listen how the plot thickens
You know there's no way I could of dealt
with not being able to receive you embrace
so let's just imagine all the terror
Just to trying and save face
It would of never brought you back
or ever changed the fact
Yet, I still would of risked it all Bro
I swear this Ish is twisted Bro
I mean the limits we would
go through for a friend
and to know the day I come home
is the day my future end
Let's say I put the work in
and things go wrong
I'm back in the pen
It's as if I gave eight years for free
The thought alone can sicken me
I used this time to build a plan
strengthen my mind
Elevated for us both
so as a man I have to ponder
What is loyalty worth?
You know my mother sacrificed
a lot to tend to me
and my princess been missing out
She'll probably never be a friend to me
and to point a finger and say
You didn't change
after all these years
Seems kind of selfish to
Especially knowing I didn't have
to deal with all life's fears
I didn't have to bust my gun
Didn't have to duck a shot
Have no money for a bill
Dante Hayes

and watch my world fall apart
For that I'm sympathetic
and can understand why
you couldn't allow your
growth to start
As a man I'm telling you
Changing is something
we got to do
as of now, I'm stuck in
between the two
Being a father
or watching the streets take you
Being stuck with the decision
on the proper way to honor you
Because we all know what I'm gonna do
which means our family
and friends would be Losing 2

Dedicated: To the Redemption Mindset of my closest Comrades

Can I Preach

Wa I cursed through Ham
or cursed by man
Hope God can save these devils
that cursed this land

Should I believe my black skins the consequence for
licentious behavior
And to be submissive in this world
Is doing the white man a favor

Should I be content with servitude
or disgraceful labor
How could I ever embrace christianity
and consciously bow my head
when it teaches
my only chance to be in peace
is when I'm gone and dead
Dante Hayes

Not my intent to disrespect
those of the Methodist or Baptist faiths
Full intentions to bring knowledge
of the lack of self worth in my race
Somehow we forgot the plantation schemes
and our introduction to the script
Either we become obedient through the book
or learned inferiority through the whip

In the twenty first century
It's still engraved
yet now psychologically we are slaves

It's either pro-religion
or you have no hope
speak of black and righteous
and it's like a joke

Pastors preach
and spread the word
I speak out loud
Yet nothing is heard

PEACE

GREATER TOMORROW

I miss ya'll niggas so much this Ish hurts
Trying to ease the pain through time
it won't work
Although ya'll gone
ya'll presence are still felt
Where's the manual
to deal with all this pain I was dealt
I've been patiently waiting
on an answer from the man above
got my eyes to the sky
looking for them flying doves
There's no answers to my mourning
Words from the Hood

No medicine for my grief
so I speak to ya'll from time to time
Just to feel a little relief
or chief
intoxication always numbed the pain
And then it came
that I had to find a better way
to honor ya'll
Make it so ya'll can exist today
As ya'll can see, I'm truly blessed
Gifted with my words
yet this was my biggest test
INtricate thoughts
Elaborating on ya'll drug use
Deliberating on how to instill it in these
contaminous youth
because they think my truth
shouldn't be
expressed through a thugs tooth
See today's adolescents
only accept consequences
As their proof
for ya'll sake
I just have to get my point across
So no one has to
endure the pain
that was my loss
Allow ya'll memories to uplift
In many ways
and instead of grieving in my sorrow
I can reminisce about our brighter days
And a greater tomorrow

In Loving Memory
Pretty Boy Rick
and Wally Priester
Dante Hayes

The Devil’s Diagnosis

The devil tries to teach us his-story
but we just can’t understand it
To many questions need to be asked
none answered
So we can’t comprehend it
Can’t read! Embarrassed
so we can’t stay in our seat
so at a young age they diagnosed us with ADHD
They drug me
so now it’s Ritalin that they feed
and they wonder why we’re addicted to
E’s and weed
That’s because we still chasing that high
we’ve been giving since we was 3
and now they wanna put us in special Ed
HELL NO! Embarrassed
So we drop out
the money we see in the streets
we gonna get with no doubt
We see our brother’s kill each other
every night
Which leaves me in a panic
ready to shoot everything
that jumps out at us
so they label us
Paranoia, Schizophrenic
We grow up
Rebellious not giving a fuck
They label us urban terrorist with the weapons
they give us
It’s a war on drugs
are they having a war with themselves
I don’t know but they sure
do give us everything
we need to war with ourselves
Dude from the army came home
and killed his whole family
They say he had
Dante Hayes

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
In the streets, we killing our brothers
  they say we out of order
  They put him in rehab
  they put us in Hell
  Is it me or did I have
Post traumatic Stress Disorder
  since I was 12
In the streets, can't think
  Too much on my mind  they say it's A.D.D
Now I'm over thinking, and trapped in the D.O.C
  Older brother's educating me
  giving me a clear vision
Everything I needed to know in the streets
  I'm learning in prison    Damn!
Is it too late
  to side with peace
  Victory
  Brotherhood
  Community
  It's Black Unity
It's never too late, my brother
  Food for thought
Don't be a victim of a Devil's Diagnosis
  It's just their hypnosis
  another way to keep us
domesticated and hopeless
  It's always hope
If we stay together as a people
  Power to my people
  Black People

Deceptions of Faith

I'm ridiculed everyday
  for being an agnostic
Yet these preachers use their faith
  In a race
Dante Hayes

for a profit
rather it's
Judaism
Buddhism
Islam
or Christianity
You're exploited, brainwashed
or my version of insanity
can't comprehend this blind faith
or not holding these clergies
responsible
for accepting ten percent
of your earnings
producing nothing but sermons
no upgrades to the community
unconsciously adding to disunity
a great heritage
separated through faith
the biggest carbon copies
of our race
These are African facts
I had to face
Is the admonitions of Goddess Maat
any different from Moses
Ten Commandments
the truth became a light
darkness I couldn't stand it
I guess Cain killing Abel
wasn't seth dilling Osiris
the sooner you know our history
you'll learn these people are bias
Through the story of goddess Isis
was born the God Heru
yet they say I should hold to faith
as if the Marty and Jesus story is true
not to leave out Abraham
the worlds very first Jew
or forget the god he prayed to
happen to be Het-Heru
so to those with all your faith
my question is to you
Words from the Hood

without African heritage
What would belief mean to you

Scattered Thoughts    Blessed Mind

They ask me how I'm doing mentally
What I think about potentially
So I think about what interest me
How my thoughts are so intrinsically
intertwined in a
cacophony of love, pain and symphonies
intricately, deceiving the way I went menstrually
Thinking about who envies me
speaking so instrumentally
of why people act horrendously
Which is something that always gets to me
When did I let it enter me?
When did it move so intravenously?
I'd rather be so sensually
but I don't always think sensibly
Thankful for those who befriended me
True blessings God has sent to me
Many thinking about bending me
not really who they pretend to be
Fein love really envy me
Fake thugs who want an end for me
Then thoughts enter me
that internally be offending me
How those you love can
become enemies
Give hugs but really
want a limb from me
Or is it just the kid in me?
Or Am I kidding me?
Does this make sense to me?
Or is it a sinful me?
Dante Hayes

Send for me, those who love me endlessly
Eventually they'll understand I love relentlessly
Understand love is not just an event for me
There's no bench for me
Many people vent to me
then the feelings change eventually
Unintentionally but either way
it interests me
Splendid me
Something that doesn't consent to me
What is consent to me?
The beginning of what content is free
Ge, at times I think whimsically
Then who regrets that whim but me?
Those who befriended me,
more than those who offended me
Apologize religiously for offending
those who are kin to me
Even apologize to my enemies
still love those who envy me
Who think about bending me
Really want a limb from me
or ever went out on a limb for me
Exceptionally to those attending me
Especially those who want a win for me
Keep telling me vent to me
Who use the pen for me
Now thats a friend to me
Sacrifice time to attend to me
Send me love unconditionally
Appreciate the empathy
That's deeper than sympathy
Told you my thoughts are intricate see
Agree?
Only those who cut into me
Thank God that he sent for me
My decisions be very rarely about Mr D.
HISTORY BOUND

I'll ask a question
Is slavery past dated?
So why am I castrated
till the point I'm emasculated
so far past hatred
Domesticated
till I'm a beast in my own brain
helpless until
I'm searching for benevolence of the oppressor
Who kept a man tamed?
Instability
So ubiquitous in our present day
Devastated over the truth that I have to say
Dehumanization, humiliation to mutilation
Feeling defeated over the price
that we had to pay
Infiltrated on them words of hope
for a brighter day
I have to say
Uncle Charlie get up out my way
Inferior thoughts unacceptable
in my present day
No identity crisis
my black is priceless
Tell the whites I'm righteous
and no longer tight lipped
Biologically fight fit
This is my detachment
from manipulations from that ship
Disturbed for centuries now
from nontraditional acts past down
I stand my ground
Knowledge I've found
Im history bound