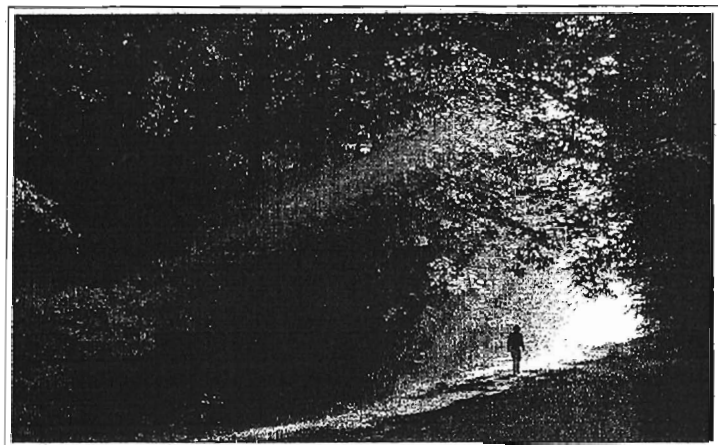


ANTHEM OF A RETRIEVED SOUL



POEMS BY KADEEM



The Centre for Literacy of Quebec
Le centre d'alphabétisation du Québec

Writers in the Community Program

Acknowledgments

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Passion to Write

I specialize in putting words together in sentences
Brother's talking 'bout gun's and drugs that's irrelevant

Spitting should be passion from the depths of my soul
I don't need a mansion my rhymes precious like gold

My rhyme's lethal, it should be locked in a safe
See you like the words from the expression on your face

Hey what can I say?
With the words I'm so gifted
Smoking on the lie in order to get lifted
Levitating above the earth and the moon

Gone for a while but don't worry I'll be coming back soon
I'll be coming back soon
I'll be coming back soon
Gone for a while but I'll be coming back soon

Listen to my flow, the vibe, the melody
Music is my life, my heart, it's my remedy

I don't need a doctor, the music does the healing
The sky is the limit

Nope it isn't
Cuz I just broke the ceiling

With the words I'm so gifted
Smoking on the lie in order to get lifted

Levitating above the earth and the moon
Gone for a while but I'll be coming back soon

My Vision

My mind spreads like a shotgun shell when it's fired
Gathering rocks and stones to build my empire
My only desire is to have no boundaries
And to be free from the corruption surrounding me

When I'm stressed I smoke lie and fly away
If you wanna find me you could see me with the flock
I'll never stop

Even if time's on pause
Trying to reach my goal no matter what the cause
It's strange you cannot take me as a human being
Cuz everything in my eyes is different from what you are seeing

I see it in colors you see it in white and black
Excluded from the others
Just because the way I act

Mildly weird I take it as something positive
Tired of being a dormant man, I gotta live
I gotta give back cuz my life is lended
Life's splendid

So everyday of my life Ima take it so preciously
Joyful like I was naturally born on ecstasy

Life

Life is a maze we the lab rats in it
Stuck in a faze not knowing we passed our wishes
Feeling like a horse with its blinders on
Trying to live a fast life like there was a timer on
My minds at a state of confusion
Cuz everything I touch turns out to be an illusion
Tell me is there anything real in this world of sin?
Praying on the daily trying to prevent any further jinn
From distracting me
Treating us humans like we were made in a factory
My family is who I stay with
And if you wanna join I'm sure we're gonna make it
God won't forsake us
The devil could never break us
Cuz our minds are too strong especially when together
Living hard times but it's eventually gonna make it
The clouds as they rain, the cleansing of the soul
Life it gets more depressing as you seem to know
I try my best to go by the morals of life
Just for in the future so I don't live in horrible strife

In love with the fire

The warmth, the beauty, the colors
What a sensational feeling
Ignoring what my mind's preaching
My heart turns fragile and soft like butter
I accidentally leave it open for the demons to cover
They corrupted my mind got me thinking that we needing each
other
Or me needing you
I think I knew what I need to do
Cuz I realized every time I touch you I get burnt
I think about you so much my head hurts
You left me in the wet dirt
Just like lions always chose to go for the neck first
I can't do this anymore the fire brings me pain
This seed needs to manifest. Somebody bring me rain
I love the fire but this can't go on forever
Even tho I feel calm and comfortable when we are together.
Laughter like I'm being tickled by a feather
But when I'm with you I still feel the cold weather
Even tho you burn me
Like going in the oven trying to take out the turkey
When it's too early
With no gloves on.
I knew that there was something wrong
I'm telling you I can't take it cuz I'm gonna end up getting my
head cut

I'm fed up but yet the fire comforts me.

The black sheep

Some people study life but they fail to prevail
I be chilling with my wife on a hill living well
Watching the fishes flowing down the river
Looking in the water see my reflection in the mirror
Visualizing the squirrel as they be creeping
Right beside me as I'm sitting next to the lake
Till the evening arrives
It is me that decides the right from the wrong
And I choose the right
While you're in the shadows I'll be in the light
Peace is hard describe
Cuz the world's corrupted
I ain't from this world like I've just been abducted
Am an alien they're trying to take me to area 51
Cuz out of the all gangsters I'm the different one
The one trying to exceed and get out
I have no need for them now
I should say the projects
Why would you wanna stay in the ghetto?
If you have the chance to escape
You go get out of it before it's too late

The secret matrix

In the basement
Writing something secret
Everybody's the same like they came from the matrix
Clones like they were born in a machine
They'll lose their soul in order to succeed
But I ain't like that, I take god over everything
Even for the cars, houses and many rings
Pendants, money, women and the fame
A life like that you're more likely to have your picture in a frame
At a early age
Always gotta be watching your back
Like there's something on it
Tapping you constantly
For me life keeps going like a track with no chorus
My emotions were covered now I'm opening the storage
The clouds are leaving I could see the sky is blue
And I just realized everything that I was told wasn't true
I finally am clean I just came out the dirt
Finally woke up Imma take life for what it's worth

No Tomorrow

Wake up in the morning it's the same thing every day
So many burdens on my back like a heavy weight
Same birds, same cars
Same words, same scars
I can tell you who my brethren are
And exactly what their names are
They are
Going thru what I'm going thru
Life stops on pause like a photo shoot
Stop and freeze
Hold on and look around
Can't go forward like they chopped my knees
I'm procrastinating on the ground
Waiting for life to pass by
I'm waiting here don't ask why
That's my blind perception
Like looking in a person's face

With two glass eyes

The Race

Time flies by in an instant
Won't notice until you're at the end of the race
Your tires rugged you drove straight to the rim
With the struggles you been going through
Your surprised that you made it this far
From all the sparks that you made
You're lucky you didn't turn into flames
But your there and safe ready to start over again

Real Spit

Some people are ignorant
And inconsiderate
But from the way we were brought up
From the way that god has taught us
To be what we have to be
It's all a process like a masterpiece
For the women, what matters is the inner person
And if the man doesn't respect that, then he ain't worth it
You're beautiful from the core straight to your surface
What hurts me is a human being with no purpose
Cuz life is more precious than to just waste it
Standing on a hill looking down it's so amazing
I grasp life gently like it were a newborn
Trying to do right cuz all I was taught was to do wrong

Anthem of a Retrieved Soul

I'm staying with fams until I get wrinkles
Life so complex it never seems simple
But until I die imma live it to the fullest
Having a fast life, I be moving like a bullet
They say the good die young
I dare a brethren to try somth'n
I'll stay on this earth till my time comes
Why them dudes all around me like Verizon?
No clouds out here but it still rains
Been in the hood so long I don't feel pain
No matter what, the ghetto's my origin
Stuck in the hood, somebody needs to open it
Cuz we all blinded
Reflexes sharp like an ice pick
Cuz we grew up in the jungle so have to be alert
Was underneath the rubble, still trying to get out the dirt
In this world it's really hard to stay clean
I recently woke up, y'all just stuck in your dreams
The valley is amazing
Tired of waking up to buildings and pavement
I rather be with nature with natural things
In this world hear the birds with their passionate singing
It brings bliss to my ears
I'm officially here
But cannot turn back
And I ain't got no problem with that
I'm happy where am at
I'm like a cat the way I never fall, I always have balance
How would you get out if you always stay in silence

I could feel it now

I could feel it in the air
Soul blended with atmosphere
Glancing down the road seeing the sunrise
It's been a long time
I been waiting for the sunshine
It's exceeding out the rear of the clouds
The voice I be hearing it loud
I ain't deaf no more
I ain't out of breath no more
Gaining back all my senses
Freedom I could smell it in thee essence
You could visualize the light in my presents
Trying to escape but they just brought the fence in
But Imma abolish it
Your soul needs some polishing
And Imma help you give you some aid
I hope you stay righteous and don't get me played
Hey what can I say?
That's reality gotta deal with it
Living life waiting for the meal ticket and it soon come
When I see it Imma do sum
Straight conquer my roll
God protecting me I could feel him on the patrol
Different stories that's told

From different gangster different gentlemen
Still remembering the good times in the past
Hoping that the good times stay for ever
Life got me feeling light headed like a feather
I be in the sky even tho I'm on the ground
I'm like a bird the way I'm moving all around
So quickly
I'm just to fast how you would last
Living in the jungle with gorillas
Trying to find out who's the realest
I don't care any more I need to know who I am
I need to find out my inner being before I evolve into a man
Understand that

Kadeem has been writing short stories, poetry and hip hop for the past two years. His work has appeared in the Montreal Review of Books (2010) the Zine *Raise Your Voice* (2010) and *Magnetic Poets* (2009) both produced jointly by the QWF Writers in the Community program. He collaborated on a spoken word CD in 2010. This is his first solo chapbook. He lives and writes in Montreal.