

## "Love"

Mos Def, *Black on Both Sides*, 1999

They say the goodness in life belongs to those who believe  
So, I believe

[Chorus] 2x

I start to think, and then I sink  
Into the paper, like I was ink  
When I'm writing I'm trapped in between the line  
I escape when I finish the rhyme

My pops said he was in love when he made me  
Thought about it for a second, wasn't hard to see  
I could hear he was sincere, was a game of promotion  
The entire affair's probably charged with emotion  
But love call your heart, I guess you got to pursue  
12-11-73 my life is testament  
Praise the beneficent, element that rests  
Devoid in the form that make love manifest  
I spent my early years in Roosevelt Project  
It was a bright valley with some dark prospects  
In '83, Benny C was the host with the most  
I listened to the Rap Attack and held the radio close  
I listened to the Rap Attack and held the radio close  
This is far before the days of high glamour and pose  
Hey yo power from the streetlight made the place dark  
I know a few understand what I'm talking about  
It was love for the thing that made me wanna stay out  
It was love for the thing that made me stay in the house  
Spending time, writing rhymes  
Trying to find words that describe the vibe  
That's inside the space  
When you close your eyes and screw your face  
Is this the pain of too much tenderness  
To make me nod my head in reverence  
Should I visit this place in remembrance  
To build landmarks here as evidence  
Night time, spirit shook my temperament  
To write rhymes that portray this sentiment

We live the now for the promise of the infinite  
We live the now for the promise of the infinite  
And we believe in the promise (love, love \*repeated\*)  
Yes yes y'all and we don't stop because

(Chorus)

My folks said they was in love when they made me  
I take they love they made me wit to make rhymes and beats  
(Can you feel?) The raw deal, it's all wheel-driven  
Contemplate the essence of beats, rhymes and living  
Speech in line with the rhythm, designed with the rhythm  
Ears and eyes keeping good time with the rhythm  
I shine with the rhythm, the Black Star Galactica  
Big number fleeting, we ancient like the abacus  
After us, I see what's perceived to be trees  
Sprouting leaves, given breeze to the we who believe  
I MC, which means I Must Cultivate the earth  
Back straight backs, hard beats and hard work  
I be the funky drummer to soften the hard earth  
(Amin) Pray Allah keep my soul and heart clean  
(Amin) Pray the same thing again for all my team  
From Restoration, Fort Greene and on out to Queens  
Uptown to Boogie Down, yo just look around  
AND SHOOK UP THE WORLD!, like Ali in 6-3 (right)  
I'm reaching the height that you said cannot be  
I'm bringing the light but you said we can't see  
Saw the new day coming, it looks just like me  
Sun burst through the clouds, my photo ID  
I bring light to your day and raise your degree  
The Universal Magnetic, you must respect it  
From end to beginning, ? true and living  
Ever changing, but sustaining magnificence  
Building the now for the promise of the infinite  
Building the now for the promise of the infinite because

Chorus

I got love, L-O-V-E and I be  
Love, L-O-V-E to MC...