

# Blackstar, K.O.S. (Determination)

(Talib Kweli)

So many emcees focusin on black people extermination  
We keep it balanced with that knowledge of self, determination  
It's hot, we be blowin the spots, with conversations  
C'mon let's smooth it out like Soul Sensation

We in the house like Japanese in Japan, or Koreans in Korea  
Head to Philly and free Mumia with the Kujichagulia TRUE  
Singin is swingin and writin is fightin, but what  
they writin got us clashin like titans it's not excitin  
No question, bein a black man is demandin  
The fire's in my eyes and the flames need fannin (3X)

With that what? (Knowledge Of Self) Determination  
\*repeat 4X\*

(singer)

Things I say and do, may not come quite through  
My words may not convey just what I'm feelin

(Talib Kweli)

Yes yes come on, yes yes  
Knowledge Of Self is like life after death  
With that you never worry about your last breath  
Death comes, that's how I'm livin, it's the next days  
The flesh goes underground, the book of life, flip the page  
Yo they askin me how old, we livin the same age  
I feel the rage of a million niggaz locked inside a cage  
At exactly which point do you start to realize  
That life without knowledge is, death in disguise?  
That's why, Knowledge Of Self is like life after death  
Apply it, to your life, let destiny manifest  
Different day, same confusion, we're gonna take this  
hip-hop shit and keep it movin, shed a little light  
Now y'all bloomin like a flower with the power of the evident  
Voices and drums original instruments  
In the flesh presently presentin my representation

With that what? (Knowledge Of Self) Determination  
\*repeat 6X\*

- - - these two parts overlap - - - -

Things I say and do, may not come quite through  
My words may not convey just what I'm feelin  
\*repeat 2X\*

(Talib Kweli)

The most important time in history is, NOW, the present  
So count your blessings cause time can't define the essence  
But you stressin over time and you follow the Roman calendar  
These people enter Cona like Gattaca, you can bet  
they tryin to lock you down like Attica, the African diaspora  
represents strength in numbers, a giant can't slumber forever  
I know you gotta get that cheddar whatever  
Aiyyo I heard you twice the first time money, get it together  
You must be History, you repeatin yourself out of the pages  
You keepin yourself depleatin your spiritual wealth  
That quick cash'll get your ass quick fast in houses of detention  
Inner-city concentration camps where no one pays attention  
or mentions the ascension of death, til nothing's left  
The young, gifted and Black are sprung addicted to crack  
All my people where y'all at cause, y'all ain't here  
And your hero's using your mind as a canvas to paint fear  
With, broad brush strokes and tales of incarceration  
You get out of jail with that Knowledge of Self determination

Stand in ovation, cause you put the Hue in Human  
Cause and effect, effect everything you do  
and that's why I got love in the face of hate  
Hands steady so the lines in the mental illustration is straight  
The thought you had don't even contemplate  
Infinite like figure eight there's no escape..

From that what? (Knowledge Of Self) Determination  
\*repeat 4X\*

Things I say and do, may not come quite through  
My words may not convey just what I'm feelin  
\*repeat 2X\*

..

Things I say and do, may not come quite through  
My words may not convey just what I'm feelin  
\*repeat 2X\*

What I'm feelin, what I'm feelin, ooooh, what I'm feelin...