

# I AM

A TRENDSETTER FIERCE INCREDIBLE IRREPRESSIBLE UNIQUE AWARE ORIGINAL OUTSPOKEN  
UNSTOPPABLE UNTOPPABLE COLOSSAL POWERFUL ARTISTIC POETIC PROLIFIC INDEPENDENT  
DRIVEN PASSIONATE INTELLIGENT RELEVANT FUNKMODE POSITIVITY LOVED INNOVATIVE  
GROUNDBREAKING CREATIVE INSPIRATIONAL FREESTYLE MUSIC MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE  
VISIONARY EXPRESSIVE CONFIDENT CHANGE ESTEEMED THE CULTURE NOW THE FUTURE

# HIP HOP

# I AM HIP HOP

*This song was written as though Hip Hop were telling its own story.*

## Verse 1

I am a trendsetter, fierce, I'm incredible, irreplaceable  
Forgettable, not never, no, since Sedgwick, Herc and turntables  
I burn labels, got hated folks from ghettos innovatin'  
Yo, those clothes and flows and throws majority's imitatin'  
Debatin' that statement, mistakin' ... don't take consideration  
Nations of faithful so grateful for global affiliation  
Federation, brotherhood, I am what nobody would  
Nobody dared, when Hill flipped Chic, I was there  
I am unique, I am aware, cannot be beat, on a tear  
I am graffiti, New Jack Swinging, I'm Chris Reid and his hair  
I am outspoken, "911 is a Joke" and the city's broken  
That's "The Message" that I wrote when my poet Mel's pen was open

## Bridge

I am the reason y'all started dancin' on the floor  
The reason y'all stopped droppin' notes and started coppin' flows  
I'm why y'all stopped turning toes and started spinnin' backs  
The reason you got layin' scratch in all your Momma's wax

## Chorus

I am unstoppable, untoppable, colossal, I am powerful  
I'm all of the above and yo, that's why you show me love  
I AM HIP HOP! HIP HOP! HIP HOP!  
I'M EVERYTHING THEY NOT AND THEY CALLIN ME HIP HOP  
Artistic, I'm poetic, prolific, I'm independent  
Yo, I'm all of the above, that's why EVERone show me love  
I AM HIP HOP! HIP HOP! HIP HOP!  
I'M EVERYTHING THEY NOT AND THEY CALLIN ME HIP HOP

## Verse 2

As a child, I spit out rhymes from the nursery  
Simple, no cursing, no rehearsing, just the first thing  
Subversive, no way, just versing  
"THROW YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR ...  
AND WAVE EM LIKE YOU JUST DON'T CARE"  
But as a teen, I got mean, I got angry, I got obscene  
I'd fight authority, a slighted minority, warrin' orally  
"FIGHT THE POWER! WE GOTTA FIGHT THE POWERS THAT BE!"  
Then I grew up, moved on, saw my power was raw  
So I refined it, realigned it, til my LIGHT was the draw  
Today I still go hard, go dumb, fight racism, amazin' em  
But greater, I'm esteemed, the new American dream

## Verse 3

Now I am driven, I'm passionate, I'm intelligent  
I'm relevant, a living room of elephants, can't tell if it's a  
Boom or something looming in the skies, on the horizon  
I'm the future, why them guys are fitted, committed  
To productivity, they follow me, cuz they've seen all I can be  
I am positivity raised from the streets to victory  
I'm Russ' hat, but more than that, I'm his penchant for giving back  
I am Jay-Z going crazy on business, then coming back  
I am KRS attesting, one nation under a blessing  
Stressing culture over gimmicks and knowledge over limericks  
Groundbreaking, educational, creative, inspirational  
Pull greatness from all places, yo, I make the world sensational

## RAP GUY

*This is a somewhat comically written but seriously intended statement on how much of the Hip Hop music created at the commercial level is formulaic, unimaginative, inauthentic, disrespectful towards Hip Hop culture, and disregards building up society at large. As the song progresses, the protagonist starts to reflect and see a better way, coinciding with better and more substantial rhyming which gets faster with each line.*

I'm a rap guy ... so I make raps

I say words that rhyme and I write em myself, even if they rhyme only with themselves  
Like rap, rap ... raataaaaaaaaap

I go on too long like jokes in an episode of "Family Guy", mustaches in "Magnum PI."

And I make lots of references that make my song relevant for like two seconds ... es  
MYSPEACE!

I shout out my name and the year of my song, "I'm MC Young G and I'm the bomb!"

And then so does my DJ and the producer, followed by a siren

Throw another guy in, let him say "YEAH!" and "UH HUH!"

It don't matter if it rhymes, we just havin' a good time ... clocks

And the tune's catchy, so the radio grabs it and the people say, "That jam's ratchet!"

Which means bad but good, bump it round the neighborhood

Next thing you know Hollywood and I'm a star cuz Jimmy Fallon say so

On the couch with J-Lo, talkin' bout my new show on cable

It's reality, cuz I'm real and target demos need to see me in my house

Yellin' 'bout my new deal with smelly cologne, it goes with my style

Which is kinda like wild, mixed in with some mild

So angry teens love me and so do they mummies

My new label gon be so happy they fund me, so happy they conned me

To be a lab creation, an overnight sensation, got no preoccupation

With the ones I'm sellin' to, tell them dudes, I don't know where they came from

Lame dumb place that I stayed once on tour, but sure, I wasn't always this way

When I was young I used to say when I grew up I was gonna be like US has the eagle

Reppin' for my people, pennis' somethin' mean'ful, makin' sure the scene full

## RAP GUY (cont.)

Of tikes and tweens doing good things

Cuz they see me doin' the same, that's why I came

But as they say, the game change yo, flip yo, rearrange yo

Before you know, you say and do, things you can't imagine

You say words that rhyme and you write them yourself

Even if they rhyme only with themself

And you act a fool in public, and the public loves it

Can't get enough of it, so you continue to shove it

Down their throats, you're the G.O.A.T.

And you get a float on New Year's

Hard to hear a second thought when ears are caught in huge cheers

Few years fly by and you start to wonder why

The cheers suddenly disappeared

Once there appeared a new guy

Let me tell you why, instead of makin' waves, you settled for pay days

Made a flash in the pan take precedence on being the man

No staying power, 15 minutes of an hour

And they soured just as quick as they devoured

Ain't no flowers on the tombstone of a coward ... Oooooooh

The truth hurts, don't it? Lost yourself in the moment

Won't it always get away if you don't focus on it?

Hold it! If these lines are worth a damn, then need to highlight a path

Or a map to make sure rap don't really die like that

So here it goes, let's get a flow that knows how we can roll the old

Into a new fold cuz true boldness is the only gold

Ain't sold by being told we be a star

Fool! We know just who we are, we don't need your fame and money

Games and hunnies, chains and cars

Our value is invaluable and how it goes is now unfoldin'

Open up the door, in store for this is now so powerful

A tower full of greatness can't be built or found on fables

Nothin' fake is able to create a stable edifice

What'd you miss? This now too fast to follow?

Is the future hard to swallow when it means that you can't wallow

In the hollow halls of preservation, based in rank manipulation

Say your station has been changed and never be the same

YOU SO LAME! There I said it but why even give you credit?

Let it go, just let it go, you ain't worth my words no mo'

Let's focus just on us, we the ones in whom we trust

We the ones who make the choices, we the voices, so we must

Make our statement loud and NOW! Take our stage here loud and PROUD!

We our agent, we the change and now we takin' back what's ours

I don't have to lack in wisdom, flaunt my materialism

Do not have to serve in prison so fans cheer my lyricism

Isn't who I am enough? Even if it's not, then tough

What's my other option? Walkin' through life as a bluff?

It's rough to try and please everyone, cause when all of it's said and done

There's a ton who gonna love you, while yet some think nothin' of you

True, so do what you can do and just be you and let good people find unille all

That you speak on, let them geek on your technique

Let's finish this

Keep in check my ego, keep it strictly legal

Represent the scene for alla those who fiend for

Flows that blow the doors off all off alla that that came before

Respect to the OGs of old and now's our chance to grow

Cuz yo, the culture is evolving and we solving all our woes

We know we hold the code to fly us to a higher road

And I know now how to go from being owned to on my own

Only rep authenticity, then insist the matter closed

## COME AT ME

*The goal here was to create something a person would want to use to get psyched up for a big day, workout, game or moment when motivation and self-assurance was key.*

### Verse 1

Not today, no way, no one gonna step to me, through me, who me? Ooo wee!

Do we? Gotta do this? Prove this? Right here, right now? Take a number, take a bow

Give it up, skip the mess, yo, I think you need bed rest, meds and head tests, heck, yes!

Reckless, you the very definition, an unwinnable position, please, check with your physician

Your condition, superstition, a belief in the unreal

You deal in fairy tales and fail without no happy ending

Just an ending, sending, you a front row TKO, yo, give someone else a go

### Bridge

This ain't your day, week, month, year, nor decade

Out the way or get slayed, today I'm made

My time to reign and claim my game, put down my crown, raise up my name

### Chorus

Come at me, come at me, cuz, yo, I'm ready, I'm ready

You have no power to stop me or slow me, I am not letting ..... UP!

Come at me, cuz there will be no forgetting, this is my moment

I'm going to realize that I own it

### Verse 2

Lights go down, roars from the crowd, it's all on what's inside me now

The power's there, just turn it on, my blood's on fire, LET'S GET IT ON!

A thousand miles an hour, sonic boom blows the room

## COME AT ME (cont.)

The opposition in contrition, bit off more than it could chew  
And a thousand amps, a thousand watts are blowing sound and sight  
But electricity to all I see is straight from me tonight  
Bring it on and let's do this, no excuses because there's no stoppin' me now  
Ring the gong and let's do this  
A thousand you and one of me is still unfair because today I can't be beat

### Verse 3

If you could put me in a bottle, you'd be drinkin' victory  
But you can't bottle what's full throttle, too much beast for any leesh  
I'm animal, not man no more, instinct, hunger and fight  
I'm on the prowl and this I vow, I feed on YOU tonight!  
Intimidate w/stones and sticks, throw all you got, hope something sticks  
You're desperate, using all your tricks, I will not break, I need no fix  
Get out my head, put down your fists, my mind is mine, your might, useless  
Your shame is lame, why you persist? You beneath me. I'M OVER THIS!

## BULLY

*The title track for our Spring 2014 original show, "No Bullies Allowed." The initial rhyme scheme was inspired by the song "Mommy" by Missy Elliott.*

### Verse 1

Bully get behind me, bully out my way  
Bully ain't gon fight me, frighten me to play  
A bully's game, bully's terms, bully try to make me squirm  
Bully, when you gon learn, this torment is of no concern?  
To me, bully, your cruelty goes right through me  
Cuz, truly, bully, abuse is nothing to me  
You pull me, bully, but bully ain't gon rule me  
You too weak, bully and ... I AM NOT GOING DOWN!

### Bridge

For you, for her, for him, for them or anybody's selfish whims  
If you cannot understand me, I'll say it again and LOUDER now  
I AM NOT GOING DOWN!  
I'm too tough, too proud, too strong, wrong crowd, not now, hatred is not allowed  
I ... AM ... NOT ... GOING ... DOWN! STAND UP!

### Chorus

BULLY ... NO! BULLY ... GO! BULLY ... CHANGE! BULLY ... GROW!  
BULLY ... LEAVE! BULLY ... CEASE! BULLY ... SHOW! BULLY ... PEACE!

### Verse 2

A bully is oppression, aggression, prejudice  
A bully's opposition while you wishin' justice  
A bully is that pressure you feel to change your path  
Moving your true north to abate the hater's laugh  
Baitin' you to act, bully waits on you to crack  
Bully's faith is in your lack of faith in ever fighting back  
Bully takes away, subtracts, attacks that place that's pure  
Tenacity, audacity, quit askin' me ... I AM NOT GOING DOWN!

### Verse 3

Lemme tell you somethin', bully, you ain't wanna hear  
I am not the one who gonna faint away in fear  
I am not the one who gonna seize and freeze in tears  
And please, sincerely, don't be near me, bully, you won't scare me here  
There, anywhere, I don't care, your flair for the dramatic, playin'  
Your game of wack theatrics, hackneyed bad tricks, I am layin' bare  
Away I tear at your disguise, reveal your lies before all eyes  
This probably comes as no surprise ... I AM NOT GOING DOWN!

## SAVED

*A very personal song written by Mighty about the strong preserving influence that Hip Hop has had on his life throughout the years.*

### Verse 1

Alive, couldn't be, more than five when I, my eyes, set sight on why  
My life has why, has drive, can fly, one move turned my whole world upside  
DOWN, where the bass goes pound, pound, pound  
To the GROUND, where the dudes go round and round  
Hip Hop and me, became two peas in a pod, now I'm pau, pau, pausin' to talk  
On the culture, that brought me back from the virtues  
The criminal minds and the times that'll fold ya  
Rope and a dope ya, callin' All, all please, help me, bow down to the champ  
That Hip Hop made me, say it even saved me, when I was a baby  
It gave me a way to paint with my body, sculpt with my words  
Compose on a raw beat, speak and be heard

### Chorus

I'm saved, Hip Hop gave me life, had it gon' another way, may not be here tonight  
Had it gon' another way, might not seen such heights  
Had it gon' another way, might not reach such heights  
I'm saved, Hip Hop gave me life, had it gon' another way, I might do wrong not write  
Had it gon' another way, I might be dead, I might  
Not be with you today, Hip Hop saved my life

# SAVED (cont.)

## Verse 2

As a teen, I had my identity, a means for an "I" and belonging  
I was saved by a world w/swag, w/cool, too busy being fly to be down w/cruel  
Or rejection, Hip Hop offered protection  
It said "stick with me, you be off your aggression"  
"With me, you need not need for expression, see and believe, I can feed you direction"  
Cuz pain and confusion misleads you to cope, seek hope in dope, puttin holes in your boat  
It's unnecessary, yes, it's very seductive, but Hip Hop gives you alternatives  
No reason to bees with the wrong crowd, someone say it loud  
I'm rollin with Hip Hop and proud! Now, now, hear, hear, listen up  
If you believe in what I'm sayin', come on down and throw it up

## Verse 3

Jump forward in time to this moment of rhyme and my livelihood is all to the good  
Thanks again to my friend called Hip Hop .... STOP! Now, listen.  
Please don't dismiss this as frivolous, I'm serious  
Yes, this is the bliss I've pursued since a kid  
I'm grown now, my own now success as a man  
Understand who I am, see this stanza's the plan  
See I stand up and planned, everything I demand  
Every wish, every dream, each desire I command  
And the way to all that was that thing as a child  
That I found and found me and said all this could be  
A family, career, don't call this hyperbole  
Cuz all that I have came direct and superbly  
From Hip Hop, it gave me the way to my destiny  
I am who I am, but Hip Hop is the rest of me.

# UNITE

*This song acknowledges that true power comes from joining forces with people who seek the best in themselves and others. It is also written as a personal thanks from Mighty to the FUNKMODE crew.*

## Verse 1

Alone I am strong but together we belong  
We be long ways ahead of whenever I'm on my own  
And all I've known grown from honin', refining, zoinin', relying on pros  
Exposin' my dome to those special chosen bros and my sisses  
With kisses, I wish this wish full of blisses, delicious dream full of meaning  
Teeming with things beyond believing, we gleaming esteem we bringing deep feelings  
Affiliation, relations, placin' our faith in the creation  
Of bonds, the ties, man, I love you guys  
You are my might when I feel like I might capsize

Can't find my whys, you're wise, your light defies my lies  
And when I cry, we cry, I cannot fly, we fly  
I hope that I can show you more, you know, to voice my choice in you  
To vocalize my gratitude, because having you, having trues, I can't lose  
You a prize of sizes, words can't realize

## Bridge

Rise when you trust in me, skies open up to me, eyes when I cannot see  
Lives bond eternally ... U-N-I-T-E ... that's U N I To Eternity

## Chorus

U-N-I-T-E, you and me, unity

## Verse 2

Iron sharpens iron, I am buyin' they ain't lyin'  
Say, if I intend to find my IO, align my pride with lions  
And a wise man said to me that who you are is who you be with  
And everybody's a fill or drain, be sane in who you deal with  
Fools be full of need, pullin me down, surroundin me, groundin me  
But intelligent fellas instead be pullin good outta me  
Now that we seize calm seas seek their level, it's time to find allies and revel  
Test your mettle, that ain't possible, unless you got a lot of camaraderie  
With harder peeps, how else you gonna rock em?  
Can't top em from the bottom, you gotta get outta shadows  
And hallowed ground is found where the righteous are doin' battle  
Now that I know where the best ones stay  
It's time to make my home that place

## Verse 3

Strength is in the numbers, we do wonders when we link  
And think of all the selfish blunders we'd avoided as a team  
Can't pillage an individual, a village makes invincible  
In principle it's simply not sensible or convincible  
And since it's fully viable islands aren't that reliable  
Try and ally your island, finale be undeniable  
I believe that I can be all the man I would ever need  
Succeeding, achieving and seeding, feeding my victories  
But I cannot see everything, I've only a partial view  
And you reveal what's concealed to me by limits of my purview  
And true, I already knew that you subdue my storm  
That I could call on you to keep me safe and warm  
But what surprises me and still until this day  
Is the way you say I give back far more than I ever take

## DRIFTING

*Written more as poetry than rap, this song features vocals by Sarah Angel. Apathy. Entitlement. Ignorance. They may not be aggressive conditions like hatred, prejudice and greed, but they are still as destructive and necessary to eliminate.*

### Verse 1

A million people in the street, they got times, they got places  
They wind in a race of intention and dreams  
And while they dreaming, others sleep, the divergence emerges  
When some drift along through the road that they weave  
It seems a stream teems ahead while some water is dead  
Held afloat not by choice but momentum instead  
And no victim is said and no head lifts an eye  
And no cry and no shed of a tear flowing by  
Oh, but why do we fight when a fiend thieves a dream?  
And we don't, no, we won't oppose dreamer's conceding,  
Defeating a rose at the level of seed  
Because weeding seems more than the road will redeem  
Apathy, honestly, brings defeat just like enemies  
Fend for these friends in their unending sleep  
A million people in the street find new power, still racing  
As pace steps ahead, no more dead in the stream

### Chorus

Move ... I'd rather stay drifting

### Verse 2

A million people sit to eat as they birth from their hands  
And the Earth serves and feeds all its worth, all they need  
And while they needing, others greed, the divergence emerges  
When first they seek reaping without sowing seed  
They say gimme, oh, lend me the means to make meaning  
I deem me so pleasing, I seize minus deed  
Minus need, mine is free, it should be all for me  
I decree what I see, it is mine minus need  
Highest greed, why is she high as me, fly as me?  
I can't lie, my esteem hides behind highest greed  
See, besides I believe a million people not eating  
All waning, ain't changing, complaining, I need  
No leading for I tend to drift as I fly  
I'm entitled, it's vital, my right to the sky  
A million people sit to eat and with one less as guest  
We dispense with excess and there's no need to feed

### Verse 3

A million people in their seats and they study  
They're flooding their budding mentality, truth's what they seek  
And while they seeking, others peek  
The divergence emerges as ones descend deeply while some wet their feet  
Meeting queries with shrugs, not so much as a theory  
They clearly can't hear the outcry for a why  
As they die on the vine w/no eye for the sight  
That one gains and ingrains by inquiring inside  
And requiring a side or a stance takes a chance  
That by blindly abiding hides lies and costs lives  
As they drift and they float in myopic utopia, groping for no thing, just hoping repose  
And to doze through the moments of ownership, own their ship  
No, cuz it's cozy to go drifting by  
A million people in their seats, let's dispense ignorance  
And require open eyes, move the blind ones to see

## BLESSED

*Blessedness is possible when you have gratitude, regardless of temporary circumstance, for who and where you are today as well as faith that you have the power to create your world in the future.*

### Verse 1

ZIP-A-DEE-DOO-DAH! Ooh and ahh and celebrate, today is good, no way! It's great!  
Relate and say "ZIP-A-DEE-AV" and be amazed  
Cuz days like these it seems like everything I feel and thinkin'  
Must be made up, straight exaggerated  
Wake up late, arrive on time, I'm at front of every line  
And every line I spit, I rhyme, find dimes in couches that ain't mine  
Crazy, right? Can't phase me, I feel blessed, no stress, I best address  
Whoever's smilin' down on me, get down on knees and pray  
Sayin' to who's above me I feel lovely and so lucky  
It struck me, this just might be the perfect day  
I ain't perfect, I promise you I'm not  
But I have faith in who I am and I'm grateful for what I got  
I got these ups and downs and rounds, defining me as a man  
W/all the cards that life has dealt me, I'm making a winning hand

### Chorus

I ... I'm blessed, I'm overjoyed, eyes to the sky, see exactly what I feel inside  
I'm blessed, no matter what today presents, I'm fine because I'm feelin' blessed

## BLESSED (cont.)

### Verse 2

Count your blessings, I know that's what they say, but hey  
I do suppose I may be low on free fingers and toes  
Guess that's how it goes, cuz even while I'm grinding  
I'm finding the silver lining, I'm mining out positivity like gold  
But, hold it, I'm holdin' a bill that's late, paycheck ain't great  
And now the landlord is tellin' me to vacate  
And, I'm just foolin' 'round, but even when it sounds like things are fallin' down  
Around me, about me, I doubt the day can't still be won  
And sometimes, often times my mind and I  
Like eye to eye in sync and I'm thinkin' 'tis the one  
That one thing that I can bring, express the best of my being  
And my being here is to sing the brightest note I might achieve  
My might achieves sublimation of any situation  
Gracious that I see there's nothing beyond me

### Verse 3

I say it's simple, it's sinful not to give all I can  
If I plan to give praise and say thanks for what I have  
And what I have is everything I need within me to succeed  
I can be anything I wanna be  
A ballin' cat w/baller cap, a genius writer that can rap  
And rap can have me stackin' stacks, be paid like I'm evadin' tax  
It's gonna be alright, maybe I'll write my name across the sky  
I floss so high that sometimes I find I'm flyin' out in space  
Bracin' myself, for my reentry, heaven sent me to attempt the descent  
With no defense, see, I'm intense, a heat, a fire, so hot I can't be contained  
A flame no mere Earth atmosphere can compare or emulate, cuz just you wait  
True as I speak this rhyme, I'll play this great day straight away to a greater lifetime

## HIGHER

*A 3-4-3-5 syllable structure through most of the song keeps pace with the percussion rhythm. This song was written at about the half way point of the creation of this album. It speaks to the need to not get lazy or complacent simply because it is not the beginning or end of the journey. Every effort must still be the best effort if a worthwhile result is to be achieved.*

### Verse 1

Not one mile, it's just one step, just one trial, in a whole contest  
No goal line, still will your best, best your will, if it says give less  
Live don't rest, test life, it won't, slow down when, you deny those hopes  
Stride nine four, out of one grand, demand the, same as one thousand  
Run out and, run out again, again out, run what's tax within

Relax when, your max been giv'n, then back in, and attack again  
Slack is thin, when lack is thick, stick on task, then go flip the script  
Game is long, you ain't done yet, play like you at the final set

### Chorus

Can't turn back, down to the wire, can't slow down, as I'm getting higher  
Making moves like I'm on fire, will not lose, as I'm getting higher  
Path is long, still will not tire, going strong, as I'm getting higher  
Hold the object of desire, drop all else as I'm getting higher

### Verse 2

Still as death, bereft of will, deft no more, only left to deal  
W/be w/that bind that ties, defies that, chance to realize  
Free your eyes, when you got a, good thing you, move, don't hesitate  
Act, don't wait, til fear abates, no second, chances for the late  
Formulate, operate make, priority, the reward you seek  
'fore you see, the morn, light's gone, always darkest before the dawn  
On towards, that sun, impel desire, that fire, that calls on will  
All those hills, by all those strides, through trials, unhide, all that lies inside

### Verse 3

Realize, every time I rise buys a second to check it, recollect, to be impressed with  
My success and progression, my sensation of elevation  
Patiently as I waited for this day of celebration  
Elation based on consecration of my predation for destinations  
Ain't time to waste on being complacent  
Or seeing where I stand as being the Promised Land  
I understand the end is the journey began again  
Because I can, I stand and return to work this plan  
I turn to earn, burn to learn, determined to climb the hurdle next referred  
My word is to be heard, my drive is steady strive  
My time has now arrived I rise up feeling life  
My word is to be heard, my drive is steady strive  
My time has now arrived, I rise up feeling life

## BOOM COUNT

*When Mighty gets really excited while telling a story, explaining something or teaching, he says "Boom!" a lot. The FUNKMODE crew knows this and, while he rants, will often jokingly say something like, "Wow, it sounds like the boom count is up to 15 already!" Deciding that this joke should be immortalized as a song, this piece was turned into a battle cry for all those seeking the opportunity to prove themselves.*

### Verse 1

If life is what you make it, imma take it, grab it by the horns  
Make it scream for mercy til it hurts see, yeah, but you been warned  
Cuz worse be to not see me sheathed in victory

## BOOM COUNT (cont.)

History is calling me but imma call HARDER

Barter my pageantry and magic REGARDIN'

All the skills I've worked all my life to build

Chargin up the mountain, climb the vine and find the giant

Slide right by him, ride down flyin' with my prize, you can't deny it

Seal my 'bilities in an envelope, send to all the dope folks who hold the ropes

Openin' to the parties I wanna be part of, see

What I've got up my sleeve? It be more than it seems

My dreams peek out cuz they won't stay concealed

I feel so close it's real, but yo, the most I've seen just seems so far away

I pray a gleam, a beam of light will shine and guide my way

Obey my mighty knock right now I say

### Chorus

BOOM! I'm rockin', knockin' down all doors like BOOM!

I'm stompin', droppin' obstacles like BOOM!

I can't relent, I'm sent to BOOM! The hinges bent, kicked in like BOOM!

Again like BOOM! I said it's BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

### Verse 2

Can you hear me now? Clear and loud?

Are you weary or wearing out? Do you fear me now?

Are we steerin down the right route?

Do you seriously hear me doubt? Hear me here and NOW!

I'm endowed with a vow, I'm about to be touted

The next Rex my crown isn't found in or bound in

Imagination or hallucination, they should face the realization

That this coronation's sealed and I won't cease until it's real

Just want a chance to be heard, my words are pure power

How will they serve? It's now or never, allow me to burn

To light my fire, to fly to higher heights

Cuz mine's quite the flight and my life's designed to enlighten titans

And might then someone inside heed my call? Keep banging til I wake them all

Til all they see's that I won't cease til I seize opportunities

### Verse 3

Count BOOM after BOOM after KNOCK after BANG

That's the voice that I brag, it's the noise I maintain

I'm insane, off the chain, ain't impressed? Ain't a thang

Imma sang til I gain the occasion to game

Imma sang til I claim the big break that I crave

And I pray that my day I attain my own way

I'm persistent, won't you listen? I insist on being christened

Please enlist me, test me, press me, I'm the best, express your blessing

Confess me and let me boast, impressing in any spot

No guessing, I am the most, no stressing unless you're competition

I'm resistant to enemies, opposition and my mission is to glisten

Shine once I secure my vision

My decision is final, know exactly what I know

And I won't give up my hope til they open up my door

Once more I pour my heart out, goin' hard now, cuz I know that Lady

Luck is smart now and won't start now smilin' til I play my part, now

## THOUGHTS AND THANKS

"I Am Hip Hop" is our third album. However, it is the first album where we handled every aspect of creation and production in house at FUNKMODE ... conceptualization, writing, composing, recording, mixing and mastering. In so doing, what we produced here is the clearest vision of ourselves expressed through the voice of Hip Hop that we have ever achieved. With each of these songs, you're getting deep inside our heads and hearts. These lyrics speak about us to a degree that only those inside our most inner circle ever really see. While we respect all of the different ways which people will appreciate this album, we are deeply grateful for those who take the time to receive the ideas that the music attempts to communicate.

We are also grateful to those who continue to encourage our creative efforts and those who will tell us honestly when what we are doing is not up to par. Friend and foe move us along on our journey and we appreciate them both. Of course, friends are much more fun and therefore we want to thank those ones (you know who you are) who have been there by our sides through this process. Some of you are family, some of you are friends who have become family, some of you are smiling faces when all we can manage is to sigh, and some of you are fans that we don't even know yet but who lift our spirits with your kind words received from all over the world.

As we are already at work on the next album, this shouldn't be the last you hear from us musically. You have our most committed promise that with our next effort we will seek to find yet another level to rise to so that we may bring you the very best we have to offer.

All love - FUNKMODE

"I AM UNSTOPPABLE, UNTOPPABLE, COLOSSAL, I AM POWERFUL.

IM ALL OF THE ABOVE AND YO, THAT'S WHY YOU SHOW ME LOVE.

# I AM HIP HOP."

**I AM HIP HOP**

**RAP GUY**

**COME AT ME**

**BULLY**

**SAVED**

**UNITE**

**DRIFTING**

**BLESSED**

**HIGHER**

**BOOM COUNT**

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