Aye, yo - call me a hard workin' nigga I shouldn't use "nigga" 'cause that's what was used against us But I still I abuse it and use it, look how they did us A lot of shit's changed, but some things installed in us We can't figure out - the Willie Lynch gave them the in-and-outs Will 'em out, look who doin' all the fuckin' killin' now We got that after slavery, nothin' you can say to me Attitude, with Malcolm X speakin' and teachin' bravery Violence is only needed when you feel defeated And parents pay attention, it ain't cool to raise a demon That's on lockdown, got out, now he actin' hostile You threw away your opportunities, nigga that's a cop out Not now, we can argue later - all in favor Raise your hands if you deserve another chance Fan of a fan, we sharin' the same things We see the bumps in the road, we smoke and we maintain

So I, play my position with persistence Consistent with the flow, nigga, we twistin' up the 'dro In this life of sin, through the highs and lows Trials and tribulations, you know how it go

I pray you niggas maintain
I pray you niggas maintain
'Cause when shit get all bad, and you watch the game change
Fuck the bullshit, it's time to maintain
You gotta maintain

Two hours early, rise and shine — no ride, catchin' the bus to be on time No time for excuses, it's your life, you can't be stuck on stupid I give 'em the awkward nod like "I can't be without a job" Helpin' moms with the bombs, I mean the bills I mean, bombs is how they feel, but how I feel don't stop the deal See, when you go without a meal you stop takin' your plate for granted We was strong when we was weak, that's why I pray before I eat It's bittersweet when it's something you wanna keep And if that nigga don't wanna help, fuck it, do it by yourself But put in effort to better your situation If not for y'all then do it for the baby, the system crazy Where you got you a son or you a daughter Don't run away from your problems or your partner Maintain — I know it's gettin' hard, but it gets harder You gotta understand, that's the shit that makes you a man

Gladly - do the snazzy on my nappy
And the razor with, education, niggas tried to clap me
I ain't a killa, but for scrilla it gets nasty
Pop up on the wrong night, get popped like mad acne
It ain't no comin' home for you, homie
It's funny, fuckin' with these rhymes over time'll turn you phony
I see niggas makin' money, becomin' dealers
Deal a pound of... then give the beats out 'til he did her
It gets more realer for real
Niggas'll take your life and won't even get life for the steal
And if you're grilled, your grill gets Formaned
Blow out your fronts and leave it as a warning
For informants I feel like the doorman

Ain't kidding, can't take the heat? Get out the kitchen It's things for soft guys like you, like knittin' mittens Kissin' kittens, stitchin' snitches, whispering disses Wishin' you had my bitches and my riches

Pass the herb, pass the herb, pass the herb
Pass the herb, pass the herb, pass the herb
I got the word for the game, niggas gotta maintain
Pass the herb, pass the herb, pass the herb
Pass the herb, pass the herb, pass the herb
I got the word for the game, niggas gotta maintain