

# Around My Way (Freedom Ain't Free)

Lupe Fiasco

First off say peace to Pine Ridge  
Shame at all the damage the white man wine did  
Ghost dance, Trail of Tears, 5 million beers a year  
And all that other crime did  
More peace to the teachers of blind kids  
To rebels in small cells keeping their mind big  
Say everything's hostile  
Suicide bombers and prosperity gospels, emaciated models  
With cocaine and blood pouring out their nostrils, they got to  
Just to stay awake on the catwalk of life where everybody watch you  
Straight hair, high heels and a handbag  
Crucifixes, racism and a land grab  
Katrina, FEMA trailers, human body sandbags  
A peace sign and a pants sag  
A money toss cause a 9 stripper mad dash  
A friend request following a hash tag  
Now everybody want it like the last laugh  
A Michael Jackson jacket or a daft mask  
Purple Jordans or the mixed girl in your math class  
Stable is when the Ba'ath had Baghdad  
But corporate jets really had to have that gas bad  
War and they hope they all fall from the ratatat  
Cause that's just more dinosaur for the Cadillac

Live from the other side what you see  
A bunch of nonsense on my TV  
Heaven on Earth is what I need  
But I feel I'm in hell every time I breathe  
Reporting live from the other side what you hear  
A bunch of nonsense all in my ear  
Rich man, poor man, we all gotta pay  
Cause freedom ain't free, especially 'round my way

And we marvel at the state of Ottoman  
Then turn around and treat Ghana like a garbage can  
America's a big motherfuckin' garbageman  
If you ain't know, you're part and parcel of the problem  
You say no you ain't, and I say yes you is  
Soon as you find out what planned obsolescence is  
You say no they didn't, and I say yes they did  
The definition of unnecessary-ness  
Manifested  
Say that we should protest just to get arrested  
That goes against all my hustling ethics  
A bunch of jail niggas say its highly ineffective  
Depart from Martin, connect on Malcolm X tip  
Insert Baldwin to similar the separate  
To me, the truth is more fulfilling than a meth hit  
Or finding really fast internet to have some sex with  
It's all one song short of a set list  
Couple croissants shy of a continental breakfast  
Or blowing out your birthday candles just to make a death wish  
So absurd word to Chief Bone Necklace  
Down at the Lakota Sioux Casino  
A whole culture boiled down to giving you paquino  
I go as left as a heart in the chest  
Cause the Horn of Africa is now starving to death

An all white Los Angeles, the dream of Mr. Chandler  
Hope and pray they take Columbus day up off the calendar  
South Central an example of God's gifts  
So shout to all the mothers raising babies in spa 6  
The projects of Oakland city, Detroit ghost towns  
Monopolies on poverty where D-boy coke bound  
It's parts of Manilla like the video for Thriller  
But the US Embassy is reminiscent of a villa  
If poverty is chocolate and privilege vanilla  
Then what's the flavor of the Sunday preacher's pedophilia  
Cash rules everything around these niggas  
As classrooms everywhere around me wither  
Hither you can be Mr. Burns or Mr. Smithers  
The tyrant or the slave but nowhere in the middle  
Of the extremes of America's dream  
Freud fighting Neo, Freddy Krueger refereeing, naaa...