

# Coronation

Masta Ace

Good evening

I would like to welcome family, friends and faculty  
To the 1984 commencement ceremony for Sheepshead Bay High School  
To the seniors I want to say: "congratulations"  
I know today feels like the end of of a long journey  
But it's actually only the beginning  
Today is the first day of the rest of your lives

My moms said: "you looked great in your cap and gown"  
Life's daring me to fight but I ain't backing down  
I got travel plans in minivans and caravans and 747's but I'll still be coming back around  
And while I'm out there, can't act a clown  
I won't be on the block, so I don't have to frown  
Man, the world so beautiful and colorful  
It a be a shame if I only saw black and brown  
So I look at my horizons and broaden them  
It's so surprising or according to them  
I should be dead or incarcerated  
Or strung out, but I've come out and of course I made it  
Yeah, despite all the naysayers  
I just leave it up to God when I say prayers  
From this day forward I will vow  
To always cut through the bullshit like cake layers  
And rise above it all, way above it all  
Life can be a mix bad, I gotta love it all  
That's what they told me at the podium  
Don't let them ever hold you like imodium  
Stay loose, be ready when your time come  
Stay alert, be ready when the sign come  
Cause you don't wanna miss your calling  
Stay in tune while the balloons are in the mist of falling

Tracy Bird, Jolanda Brisbane, Breigh Brooks  
Fred Caprista, John Chesney, Duval Clear  
Norris Coburn, Jolanda Donald, Phil Dresman  
Yanick Dasier, David Dopkin, Dean Evans  
Joseph Diembalgo, Starmanyé Green, Roger Holly  
Veranda Jones, Kristina Johnson, Jackie Lee

Of course my momma here and my nana here  
My father not, he's somewhere in a can of beer  
My uncle Marvin here, my other family not  
Please listen to this little caveat  
"One day you will have to piss and won't have a pot  
But there may come a day when you have a lot"  
Whoever don't support you when you young, when you grown they may try to check you out like the Marriott  
It's up to you if you hold a grudge  
To me, it's like water off a duck's back  
My mentality is fuck that  
Without them I was still gone get off like I know the judge  
And I am not the one that sold the drugs  
Me and that life is no correlation  
I got accepted to a university, they probably cursing me  
But this is my coronation

Tony Lewis, Lorraine Ledgeman, Margo DeWitt  
Corine Mattedean, Michael McColin, Kenneth McFadder  
Craig McWin, Steward Minklewitz, Patricia Murroh  
Harold Neil, Arleen Pennington, Karen Price  
Gwendolyn Roach, Larry Robin, Curtis Scott  
Michael Stark, Michael Walker, Saul Weisberg  
Michael Zepparetto

Seniors, please move your tassels to the other side of your hat  
To commemorate these rites of passage  
"You are now all high school graduates, congratulations"