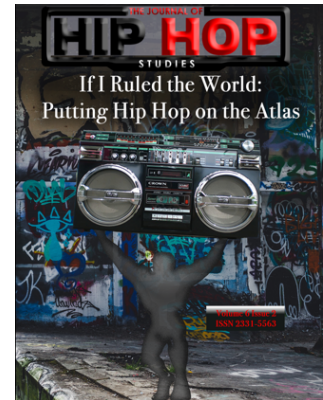

Dear Mama

Ikeogu Oke

*Journal of Hip Hop Studies, Special Issue If I Ruled the World:
Putting Hip Hop on the Atlas*

Volume 6, Issue 2, Winter 2019, pp. 15 - 16

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34718/3nv1-9752>



The Tupac Shakur Memorial Poems/Songs

Ikeogu Oke

A Sequence

No. 3: Dear Mama

(For Rap Music, to the Memory of Tupac Shakur)

Mama, O dear Mama,
You were a tough nail beneath their hammer;
They knocked and knocked and you stood still,
And proved your love with a strong will.

Chorus: Strong, resilient Mama,
Unyielding beneath their hammer,
I can say without a stammer:
It could only have been Mama!

} *To be sung,
the other
stanzas rapped*

Unbent, unfazed, unbroken,
Your spirit was tough, your strength was oaken,
The blows you bore went unspoken;
A mere rock would have been broken!

Repeat chorus.

A mere steel nail would have
Shattered, and turned to pulp beneath their hammer,
And gone with my coffin unsung to the grave;
But they couldn't even dent dear Mama.

Repeat chorus.

Yes, they couldn't dent dear Mama,
A woman of steel harder than diamond,
Yet soft like a berry and sweet like an almond;
They couldn't dent her charm with their hammer.

Repeat chorus.

Bold, beautiful Mama,
My Mama divine,
I compare your taste without a stammer
To the ultimate vintage wine.

Repeat chorus.

A mere rock would have melted, under
Their fiery blows; a mere pearl split asunder,
By the pounding of their strokes; but Mama,
My dear Mama, stood unruffled by their hammer.

Repeat chorus.

And she did all that for her chum,
And proved herself the world's best Mum,
Standing tough against a system
That'll break her child that's not like them.

Repeat chorus.

February 4, 2018