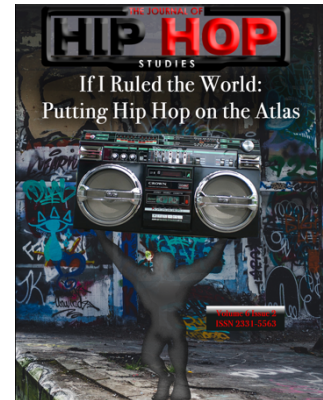

Good Thing Going

Ikeogu Oke

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The Tupac Shakur Memorial Poems/Songs

Ikeogu Oke

A Sequence

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

A warning to our readers: Please note, this poem contains a reference that might be upsetting and painful because the *n-word* is used (in the opening line). We were not able to ask the poet to provide a commentary on his choice of this word, as he passed away in November. The journal has decided to print the poem as it was originally written, in order to honor the memory of Ikeogu Oke (1967–2018), one of Nigeria’s most highly respected and venerable wordsmiths.

No. 6: Good Thing Going

A Hip Hop Anthem

Come on out my niggas,
Hit the streets my homies,
Musicians and singers,
Make the sign of peace.

Chorus: We’ve got a good thing going:
Hip hop is da bomb!
We’ve gotta detonate it
Across a needy world.

*To be rapped,
like the other
stanzas*

A world that needs awakening
By all its vibes and tales,
Whose eyes should not be straining
Behind those hidden scales.

Repeat chorus.

We’ve gotta “legalize” it:
The ganja of feared truth!
They’ve gotta see it’s quite fit
To educate our youth.

Repeat chorus.

So they can see the warning
Before the bogey strikes,
Whose siren howls by morning
Behind their rolling bikes.

Repeat chorus.

So they can know that schools
Are better than the streets;
That living by good rules
Can trump all vicious feats.

Repeat chorus.

So they can see the need
To rise and band together
And put away their greed
And build for one another.

Repeat chorus.

And let the rhythm roll
Across their eyes and ears,
And the message end their fears
To chase their higher goals.

Repeat chorus.

February 22, 2018