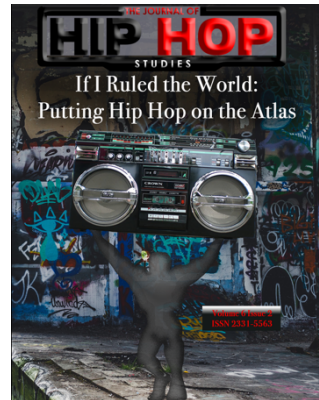

The Dame of Liberty

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. 206 - 207

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34718/1v43-3903>



The Tupac Shakur Memorial Poems/Songs

Ikeogu Oke

A Sequence

No. 8: The Dame of Liberty

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

Our towers scrape the sky;
Their roofs ascend on high;
And so high should our rating be,
As the people of liberty.

Chorus: And we've raised before the sea
The Dame of Liberty:
A gorgeous gift that seems to be
A taunt for folks like me.

*To be rapped or sung,
the other stanzas rapped*

But she's a torchbearer for real,
Shining her light for us to see
How we all need to heal
From the wounds of slavery.

Repeat chorus.

Yes, I lived in her land of the free,
And wondered, "What's in it for me?"
I thought of her freedom's bounty,
And wondered when my share would be.

Repeat chorus.

And, yes, our hope to be free remains
Distant for their unseen chains.

“Give me liberty, or give me death!”
I cried out, and they gave me death.

Repeat chorus.

And that’s how our nation stumbles,
Its deeds against its beliefs;
Yes, that’s how she stumbles,
Among our many griefs.

Repeat chorus.

Our lives remain dark or in the shadow;
Our prospects are still dim or shallow;
In this land of life we can hardly breathe;
To the cradle of our freedom our nation brought a wreath.

Repeat chorus.

Great Dame of Liberty,
Towering before the sea,
When will your torch we all see
Shine for folks like me?

Repeat chorus.

February 27, 2018

¹ “Give me liberty, or give me death!” is a quotation from a speech delivered by Patrick Henry, an American attorney, orator and planter, to the Second Virginia Convention on March 23, 1775, at St. John’s Church in Richmond, Virginia.