

HARDCHARLIE

HIP-HOP SHABBAT

OFF MY CHEST

If this is what they call livin, then damn we be in trouble
Since when is getting by, supposed to be so difficult
I could list the pressures I encounter up and down the page
Pity I'm so nice and I put up with the same things day after day
I gotta work, gotta stay alert, gotta exert myself to leave the dirt,
Or I'm gonna slip and fall, and I'm gonna get hurt.
Ready for action, I'm ready to be attackin, and when I get done,
I'll be ready to get home and do some relaxin' after I won
Exactly when am I havin fun, when am I free to act dumb?
How should I react when pressin' against my back there's a gun?
I try to open my eyes to a variety of horizons
But none are as nice as mine, not something I find surprising.
I'm finally realizing this, I'm not denyin' it,
I know I gotta go stand up for myself and try fightin' it
Time to be motivated, hate to say it but I'm lazy every day,
Now there's a chance for me to change my crazy ways
Hear what I say; when you open your mouth, and spill your heart out
Crying in rhymes how you're too tired to stand up and shout
You just want a change without any excessive doubts
And people finally understand, the things you're talkin' about

I'm just gonna ramble on cause I'm in the mood
I just gotta go and do what I gotta do, or else I'm screwed,
See I'm fifteen but I worry 'bout my life goin' by in a hurry
I hope that I can succeed, but I won't lie and say that I'm worthy
Refer to me as the spring; I've turned over so many new leaves,
Even the trees have trouble believing me, misdeeds repeat frequently,
It seems my self-esteem leaves too easily, I can only dream of sleep,
Or maybe these memories keep my head congested
I been doin' stupid things that I know can't be corrected
I'm sad to say that I don't recognize my own reflection
Why should I lie and say I'm fine though I wanna cry out my confessions.
My regressions lessen the chances of endin' depression
And I tried to hide the sight of all these heavy stressors collectin'
Though they already been found and I swallowed 'em down, like takin a pill,
Only thing keeping me goin' now is the power of my will
Still I'm diggin' deeper down cause I can't leave the things that I begin
I better not lose, my only option is to win,
I'm so far in, I can't give up faith, in the stuff that I start
Of course I'm driven by the whip to my back and love in my heart.
Hope to G-d it serves me well in the end
I can't handle the sadness and embarrassment in bein' misled
So it's a fresh day, a new chance to realign my shoulders and head.
No longer for me to fail, no longer for me to wail,
No longer will I allow any sadness to prevail

6/8 TIME

Take just a little taste of my pain
I'll become your favorite flavor
Afterward you'll be never be the same
I should really make you sign a waiver before you play this
Prepare to be bare and not care as they stare at you on stage, it may turn
Your stomach upside down, no escape allowed,
Either bring the whole place down or face pure
Humiliation from many haters,
Who somehow think they know exactly how the game works
But I erase them with an eraser, and cater to my own aims first,
Got a great thirst, to see my name on the front page of the newspaper,
Little five foot four inch Jewish kid is newly adjudicated hip hop savior
Save your, pathetic attempts to dominate for later
Recognize that no container, is capable of restrainin'
My determination to remain heard
Pop an adderall, better stay alert; I shock and awe audiences like a tazer
Psychologists say I'm in need of major modifications to my behavior
Cause I'm way too over the top, and thinkin' before I speak ain't really in my nature
Traits learned as a teenager changed after heart break with introspective labor
See I'm breakin' the chain of assimilation to rediscover hidden faith in my creator
Just a slave to the same mistakes until we find the strength
To stand tall like sky scrapers...

ELEVATION

If only it were easy to be a mentch
Then my yetzer hara wouldn't weigh me down just like cement
The Tanya teaches that we shouldn't ever be content
It seems there's always higher levels for us to ascend.
I recommend that you remember who you represent
The title chosen among the nations won't lose relevance
Some of us love ourselves so much we try to disconnect
Thank goodness G-d forgives us any time we're incorrect
They say repent I say take it to the next step
This negativity has the ability to reinvent
It's only when, we're consumed by total darkness do we appreciate the light ahead
Why distress when nothing is permanent in this environment
Guided by six hundred thirteen mitzvot requirements
Good for your soul like flintstone vitamins
Cleave to G-d above no reason why to hide from him
No confinement, though we won't stay pacified or silent
Mumbai violence, terrorists might swipe life, thinkin' we're spineless
However we're never compliant
Forever defiant, together united, Gavi and Rivkie still survive... I'chaim

If only it were easy to do the right thing
But this yetzer hara of mine always seems to need refining
Crush the klipah that tries to disguise the G-dliness inside crying
Beggin' to brighten the world like a pack of matches igniting
There are struggles that I hide deep, underneath my tzit-tzit
That I release in writing, For those prone to inspiring
A Jewish life is tiring, there ain't no denying,
Humanity demands some better defining
Every soul in shamayim given a mission to fix society
And because of this assignment, often it's difficult to find peace
I wonder why me? I don't understand what G-d's requiring
How do any of these laws apply to me
Question my rabbi and he replied smiling
The secret to the Jews surviving, is during the times we, were persecuted and dying, We didn't lose
faith in G-d providing, we continued fighting,
Even when surrender was appetizing
From the challenges we're sent, our inner essence begins shining
This advice I deem worthy of internalizing
And gives me reason each morning to open up my eyelids
Now finally, I can see the morning light, rising

AWAKE

Awake, yet unamused

I'm undercover suffering with no desire to move

My entire being is dreaming of leaving this room

It's just my overtired feet refuse

As soon as I choose to put on my shoes the beatin' resumes

But I figured it out, the medicine goes down better with a little sugar on the spoon.

It's true, look at me, I'm living proof,

Look at me with my neck in a noose

If it wasn't for my momma's chicken soup

I'd be a tickin' time bomb impossible to diffuse

Dial up the cops I'm in hot pursuit

And out to avenge my relatives who

Got locked in a boxcar and removed

Numbers on their arms tattooed

No nazi no Holocaust will ever stop me from being a Jew

I mean it too, you ain't gotta clue about any of the things I've been through

Turning CHARLIE hard as bricks was caused by lies and chicks with mental issues

It still continues, all these negative conditions don't improve

It's like the whole world is crying and I'm runnin' out of tissues

I've got more than a few loose screws and my marbles are lost like gilligan's crew

On a desert island and I'm quickly losing hope of getting rescued

What's next up on the menu, play yet another show at another venue

Break another girl apart, though I never did intend to

Become such a superstar cause I'm nothing special

Let's all be intellectuals, and see my heart as more than atriums and ventricles

Don't just assume, my unconventional views are just me dazed and confused

'Cause I'm not, I got no excuse, but I do have friends to introduce

See this is dancing, this is flying, this is standing, this is trying

This is loss, this is treasure, this is strength beyond all measure

This is pain, this is mercy, this is breaking, this is burning

This is mine, this is gonna be fine, these paper cuts will heal with time

A CLEAR VIEW

I rise before dawn for work and arrive back home after sunset
Once considered a night-owl my circadian rhythm required adjustment
Just to get up from bed, because I'm under way too much stress
Pushing myself past physical limits because I wanna be deemed a success
Bank account only shows deductions wonder where all of my income went
Barely enough to cover student loans, buy kosher food, and pay the month's rent
Plus the Torah says, I'm supposed to donate one tenth,
But whenever I try, to put away funds I can't accumulate even one cent
Thank G-d I have love in abundance, Chabad steadies me when I get upset
Balancing these responsibilities often leaves me with a lump in my stomach
Look in the mirror see the most bitter judgment, always questioning my ability to function,
The only way to stay stable below is to have something above to trust in
Amalek ain't gonna shake my faith, I can beat this doubt just like a drumset
Perhaps I'm still developing strength even if the weight I want to lift barely budes.
So if I'm complaining too much please forgive me, I'm struggling to become content
My dad's like welcome to adult life son are you havin' any fun yet?

Oh how they take delight in watching us break
We're running out of time, we're limited in space
I plan to climb above this troubled state
Give me close ties, give me simple faith
We all want a clear view
But there is so much work for us to do
We all want a clear view
Yet we struggle to see truth, let's learn from our mistakes

Every day is the same, we're overworked and underpaid
Taken advantage of and restrained by our cravings to earn a decent wage
Trained from an early age to be complacent few know they're even capable of change
As we let our aspirations slip away in the name of materialistic gain
Quick to assimilate, forget my faith, past generations tried to save for me
To practice unashamed without intimidation of being sent to my grave
But here I sit so safe, behind this desk as I contemplate,
If this profession I engage in is really the intent for which I was made?
Is my main purpose in life to join the ranks of office slaves
Or was I created to liberate the incarcerated from their cubicle cage
Tired of bein' defined by grades and pretentious titles behind my name
Instead of the rhymes that I write on the page
To inspire minds to escape from the confines of the brain
Recognize that a higher power operates, and requires us to refine our traits
Humankind was designed to incorporate the divine into the mundane
Rock a yarmulke with pride in the workplace,
Never hide yiddishkeit or be afraid of what people might say
'Cause when you're true to yourself everything else will fall in place

RECOVERY

The oil leaves the olive once it's crushed
Never learn to stand tall if we lean upon a crutch
Despondence prospers from emotions bottled hushed
Until the facade of confidence is clobbered into dust,
Constant panic, automatic thoughts erupt "I gotta get numb,"
Longing to swallow strong concoctions to dissolve the disgust
Some sip from golden goblets, but my monsters commonly chug
Til I'm unconscious rebuffed, no stop 'til rock bottom obstructs
Despite consequences discussed, I succumb once again
And attempt to get out of the rut via getting drunk,
Mind confined by anxiety floods, too paralyzed to confront
I'm literally dying for a rush that silent suffering corrupts.
Tries to cover up discomfort as alibis are undermined and come undone
Crying fighting mirrors that despise the person I've become
Substances deducted substance from my life by the ton
In denial eyes are shut, slipping whenever I try to run
Hiding inside my guilty conscious for so much time I lost touch
But I'm not fine, I'm not tough, I can't do this alone, I need your love
As I take ownership of the broken pieces and begin to reconstruct
I wanna commit to change above this numbers game but Today is only day one

One step at a time, I can't seem to find the missing piece; there's no release
Not easy to admit defeat, but I've got secrets I'm too sick to keep; dreading what the mirror reflects
One second at a time, lost in lies and I've been missing peace; always out of reach
But if I can teach these lips to speak, freedom will thrive inside recovery
And learn to love myself again

G-d bless you

You aint even gotta sneeze,
Positive change compliments promises and apologies,
Demons dissolve upon acknowledging, no need to withdraw and leave,
If you accept your flaws and see your thoughts as entities subject to falsity,
Take solace, tear droplets are the heart of processing,
The pain of trauma tamed from calmly unlocking the box and commenting,
The liquor bottle embodies hypocrisy,
Misled to believe in relief from monotony, but then we receive despondency,
Own the possibilities like apostrophes, insert a comma to diminish velocity,
When we're strong enough to honor darker periods properly,
The light can be admired shining in its most authentic quality,
Have we all forgotten to stop and breathe cause we're constantly bombarded by a barrage of
electronic screens,
Tries to fix our lives via shopping sprees and gossiping about frivolities are faith demolishing,
Please don't lock up your beauty inside the armor you model unconsciously,
Because the nuances you disguise are what make you a novelty,
Enough admonishing, confidence blossoms from rigorous honesty,
Return to yourself, recovery is yours as long as you're wanting

THE ROCK

Dry walls and ceilings, eyes wide open mind reeling from stifled dreaming
In such a place how could anyone alive find meaning,
I got a feeling that the night is deceiving,
Darkness imparted by divine concealing brought us into being,
The King needs his people to keep believing
Within existence we've been provided with keys to freedom
Pieces of disconnected vessels earth embedded in desperate need of healing
We claw onto falsities instead of cleaving to infinity
There's gotta be a reason for all of this that we're not capable of perceiving,
We can bring redemption easily speedily vis a vis our deeds thoughts and speech
Even lost at sea call out to G-d mimamakim
From the depths of defeat repent whole heartedly and be released

Both sides of my soul fight for control
Coaxed to satisfy my appetites but I revolt, Benoni gold
Pray the right words leave my throat
Please find my hopes for the future of my people enclosed
You are one and none compare, I've become aware
Of a world to come, I have a share
Hear my prayers
I faced despair but can repair
The beating of the bass and snare
Rhythm of existence will learn to care if we...

Speak to the rock don't hit it
And water will pour forth
Speak to the rock, don't hit it
You'll be provided with support

Dreams of supernal secrets decoded,
I see thirteen petalled roses exploding open,
A chosen people grown among the thorns, dispersed but never broken,
Shown paths of mercy surrounded by five kinds of love like a shield made of oxytocin,
My hand lifts a kiddush cup up as blessing from above is overflowing,
Spheres of intellect and emotion, to protect against klipot always approaching,
Righteous souls unified by the light of yesod, utilize the mitzvot to know Him,
But society imposes unholy motives, and we can't find G-d dollar sign blindfolded,
I'd rather struggle with the truth than lose a tooth because my Torah's been sugar coated,
Aligned with the mind of Moses, all we have is what Hashem bestows us,
It's a miracle we're alive and thriving yet too many of us don't even notice.

EXODUS

Intention fills my steps
Steady progression on unwavering legs
Beginning to repair and reflect
At the foot of the mountain we silently slept
Unified, heaven and the lowest worlds intersect
See each sound and melody that redemption presents
No need to listen first, L-rd I agree, I accept
G-d held the mountain over our heads

Still learning to relinquish all the thoughts that burden me, internally,
I balance one hundred responsibilities concurrently
Teach me how to breathe purposely; I don't know why it seems
Like I'm constantly running out of time and I'm always hurrying
The road that lies ahead abounds with infinite uncertainty,
Grant me blessing from opponents with motives to curse me,
Cause I'm flourishing, their verdicts ain't hurting me, evidence of immaturity,
Hostility is converted into encouragement to achieve,
Staring down these insecurities, determined to mislead
Can you love each one of your flaws? You're so imperfect perfectly.
We have endured massacres and yet we never met defeat,
Nothing will ever sever our connection to eternity.

CHORUS

Carry the weight 'til your back breaks,
Bitter bricks not as heavy as the shame that results from the strain,
The whip hits but my lips offer praise,
The pain begins to shift into strength just enough to sustain,
But most don't believe in change, most don't believe we'll ever leave this place,
Harden your heart, try to contain, the stronger your grip on the past the faster it slips away,
Let my people go
I refuse to assimilate, no debate, I won't negotiate
This journey is mine to take, time to refine my traits
Untie the binds and cast aside the chains
You never should have been so inhumane,
I taught my children compassion while yours only learned how to hate,
Nothing left to lose, only riches to gain
Speak and create, like a king to his nation in ancient days,
Unaffected by plagues, jump in the water face first pure faith,
Cross the sea on dry land with an outstretched arm and a mighty hand to embrace,
Finally safe, invalidate your inner restraints,
A promised land awaits.

CHORUS

SAFE

I'm thirty three years old now, I feel like I'm grown now,
Blessing overflowing I got a wife and two kids to hold down,
finally bought my own house, no option to ever slow down, or zone out,
No one gets fed showing up with a closed mouth,
Yetzer hara versus the nefesh elokis show down,
Defeat darkness with light like a birthday candle that can't be blown out,
Thank G-d I was shown how to love so I know now,
On the ascent like a Cohen gadol saying the Name that can't be pronounced,
So loud, so proud, one lone sound,
All the idols get thrown out, no doubts, I won't bow,
That type of faith is profound,
Make a dirah tachton and Hashem will be homebound,
Accept the yoke of heaven and I'll happily go plow,
Over superficial demons who attempt to bestow frowns,
All the hidden yidden still hold crowns,
I will go down any distance to ensure that a souls found,
You and I are one despite being two different pronouns,
Nevertheless submit your half a shekel because we both count,
Time to hit the road now, I pray my hope amounts to bringing spiritual growth to the whole crowd

One day I pray, I'll grow old and gray
I will cherish every crevice and wrinkle upon my face
Please G-d shield us from harm's way
I got a pistol on my hip but it's only You who keeps us safe

Against our will we enter the world, and against our will we leave it,
In between I wanna ensure every second is filled with meaning,
I mean it, Sworn allegiance, to increase in kindness and fix the pieces,
Tikkun olam rebalance these sefiros,
If you're willing to speak I can contain each of your secrets,
Deeply share your soul and in return receive some freedom,
Breathe in and out when the tests seem like behemoths,
Discomfort teaches us how to reach new achievements,
oh G-d all I need is you to believe in,
All I need is you to believe I'm here for a reason,
So much of what we hear and see is misleading, deceiving,
Nothings solely black and white like a zebra,
A diamonds different sides reflect light in cohesion,
But sometimes the cuts from the procedure are still healing,
Traumas tied up in the recent released when we process reflect and keep repeating,
Divided between lowly desires and aspiring past the ceiling,
So many dreams but I don't have any time left for sleeping,
The rebbe said reach out may our commitment only deepen,
I'm so grateful for my life my appreciation never decreases

HEARTBEAT

Mind and soul ignited ready to inspire sleeping giants
Reminded of a timeless sanctified alliance
A scattered nation still united despite what distance disguises
Tried and tested Sittin tight til light of sunrise is, on the horizon
In his infinite kindness, given Six hundred thirteen assignments, he desires that we learn to love and
bring worldwide refinement
we're reminded of exile from our home Yerushalayim
Your weeping walls have cried for too long and require fortifying
Ad Mosai how much my eyes wish to visualize your har habayis, restored to all its glory and
brightness,
Smoke rising from the altar spreading the scent of sacrifices
Hear the levites, reciting songs of ascent on the steps inspiring
How could words ever describe the shining face of the kohen gadol after arriving safe from a place
outside time and space.
Now I lie awake as I await the line of David to wipe the slate

With all of my heart with all of my soul, and might
I'll keep these hopeful embers glowing bright
And although the wind tries to deprive our flame
We will not concede, we will not be restrained
Seven eyes above guard the foundation stone
Jerusalem is calling us home
The pulse is slowly rising, waiting to be redeemed
An ancient rhythm in the land survives beating, beating.

YAMIN HASHEM [THE RIGHT HAND]

ימין השם רוממה
ימין השם עשה חיל
ימין השם רוממה
ימין השם עשה חיל

You kept me humble on top and raised me up from a bottomless sorrow
You and your wife gave me food when I couldn't find a reason to swallow
In college you were my only positive role model to follow
And taught me that by praying my heart out I could bring Mashiach tomorrow
I was so involved in this gashmius it felt like my insides were hollow
You discovered G-dliness inside me though the way I operated was awful
Showed me there was more to this existence than sex drugs and rock and roll
Ignited the light to a life of yiddishkeit, and I prospered 'cause you fostered my growth
I watched you draw down blessings from heaven during kiddush over moscato
I began keeping Shabbos, no cell phone or wallet
I shocked my dad and mom back home in Chicago
My façade got shot with vodka farbrenging, I released all the problems I bottled
Thank G-d I found Chabad before my life rotted to compost
Almost total opposites but we got common souls both borrowed
Throw off the bondage of mitzraim and overcome all obstacles
So no more Taco Bell tacos for me, only kosher cheese on my nachos
I wanna be a Chasid like you movin' forward with G-d's right hand on the throttle

CHORUS

Never did I think for a second about how my actions impacted heaven
My collection of regrets had become so immense, I didn't have the will to keep suppressin'
But you let me open up, pieces of the past I tried to close shut that were limiting my present
Not once did you ever judge my confessions, you just said the difficulties I endured were blessings
With a little bit of introspection, I tried to find the meaning
Behind what was being tested
Yet it's G-d alone who knows the whole message,
Though we attempt to comprehend what's presented
Always wisely you advised me and guided me towards the right direction
And if I was divided in two sections
You helped me pick the better sentiment to invest in
You whet my neshama's appetite with your infinite supply of inspiring lessons
From the torah our timeless protection, from the times of exile to redemption
Your personal pride pushed to the side, in order to fortify a Jewish student's connection
To Hashem and despite tension from outside,
You gave my dalet amos new dimension
All I saw were imperfections but you switched up my perception
And again I remembered how to appreciate my reflection,
The impression you've left was tremendous, to you I'm forever indebted
Now I'm destined for success, G-d's right hand freed me from depression...

THE STAGE IS SET

The stage is set, and yet, the picture is incomplete
Perhaps there's more to the scene on the screen than what can be easily seen from our seats
So I cheat on the comfort of my chair with a pair of stable feet, stand up, take a deep breath,
I'm not scared, nor am I weak, though as I begin walking through the rows
I notice the people all around me who have fallen to sleep
Content with being locked in selfish dreams of only what they wish to see,
And yet they end up missing the whole point of the scheme
Yet who am I to speak? My record is anything but clean
However I know that if I should meet, a golden calf along my path,
I'd cut off my own legs before I'd ever bend a knee
So I continue my journey forward to the front of the theater, til an usher comes up to me
And asks "why do you try to leave?"
I respond "I'm not about to peace, outta here man, relax,
I just believe, there's more to the show than what's been shown currently"
He smiles like he knows something I don't and says
"Keep your conviction strong, the next few steps down are pretty steep"
Though I don't know what he means I smile politely, thank him for the advice, and proceed
Despite the slope increase, slowly, until my heart skips, trips and falls over a beat.
The sight before my eyes beyond impossible to conceive
Alive, six million souls arise, yellow stars upon their sleeves.
Tears begin to silently slide across my cheeks.
Realize that once upon a time and time again, my people were deemed unfit to breathe.
Yet here I walk, proud and strong, proof that we never met defeat.
Proof that we will not let history repeat.
Proof that our promise has not become obsolete
The stage now within my reach, I ascend the steps, and pull off the sheet,
A pen and paper hidden beneath.
I write, שמע ישראל, have faith.

Don't lose your faith.

Behold, I've composed my masterpiece

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TRACHT GUT VET ZEIN GUT