HARDCHARLIE HIP-HOP SHABBAT

OFF MY CHEST

If this is what they call livin, then damn we be in trouble Since when is aetting 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' mislead 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

ALONE

Have you ever been alone not knowin where to go Or where to move next When you're encumbered by emotions and stress Not knowing how to cope with the growing doses of loneliness When you're so hopeless you're throat closes when you try to take a breath And your broken heart is ready to explode in your chest Because this cyclone of hormones rotates and doesn't relent When the rope out of your hole is only a strand of thread And even though it's still an escape, it hangs high above you're head When you're all grown and you still haven't found what you're looking for yet And you're told to let go of goals you spent your life trying to get When it feels cold during you're summer and you're frozen in astonishment That your bones could hold this load even though you have no confidence As a consequence, your soul grows full of sadness Home isn't home no more but still it shows your address When tomorrow is full of sorrow and no one is compassionate and You discover the road you chose to follow goes to hell and back again When you're helpless and oppressed and you don't possess a shoulder To hold you up when you feel like, you're gonna fall over. When life is isolated and morosely mediocre Find comfort in my words, connect, and know you're not a loner

6/8 TIME

Take just a little taste of my pain I'll become vour 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...

LIGHTS

Is it really wise to kiss the past goodbye? Cause whenever we forget what happened it comes back to bite Yet it's no better to dream of future days to pass the time Living in the moment isn't guite so black and white See I'm nothin' but an average a man with an appetite, That's never satisfied, with less than paradise But cars women and money didn't leave me gratified; They were just a fast delight, my stress was magnified Knowing I can't rewind, a single second, Moved me to use my intellect to connect to the mastermind Behind the grand design, and find a plan for life, Joy could be attained even after disaster strikes Each and every rhyme makes the message amplified, Although I only stand at an ample size, We all have to climb, for a chance to shine, Even if the slope is slippery like astroglide On Friday nights I watch my mother pray by candlelight, Asking G-d to give her children the strength to make sacrifice Someone musta heard her words or my battlecry, Cause love is what gives me the will to stand and fight...

FLEVATION

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

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.

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 budges. 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

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

Arise, with a new sense of purpose to keep alive There's truth under the disguise There's truth under the disguise I'm ready for the fight But I, won't be wasting time Dreaming of sleep tonight... Awake although I'd much rather be asleep I'm jealous of the dead who get forever to rest in peace I'm definitely gonna have to pull a little bo peep Cause the flock of sheep, with the numbers on their fleece go free To greener pastures the first chance they get to leave, Though I was countin' on them to lead me into a field of dreams, But they just stampede, and trample me beneath their feet, I can't believe I ever trusted, what looked so sweet, And fluffy cause really nothing is what it seems to be Nothing is gonna come around to see that I'm released From these boundaries, surrounding me, they try to devour me, outwardly Maybe cause I'm kosher and low in calories I just want my dad and mom to be proud of me I forget that I'm allowed to breathe Only after the curtains go down and my crowd is pleased Then I'm put back at ease, load up the magazine, Attach to the gat and squeeze for rapid relief Lacking a beat inside my chest cavity, filled to capacity with sadness and tragedy, Has anyone ever asked what life is, if it's lived unhappily? Such dramatics we gotta get past what doesn't matter in reality Like the type of car we drive, our diamonds, houses, yachts, and yearly salaries Physicality refined with a black hat as I wrap straps of my phylacteries T'fillin near my heart and between my eyes make me strong just like a maccabee Cause I'm in the middle of a battle, between gut reaction and my sanity No plan or strategy just my ass on a cactus and I manage to sit passively I'm knee deep, in disaster; I'm the master of catastrophe Tomorrow is collateral damage, my last bit of hope the only casualty So please G-d let me find romance and take it to the marriage canopy Let my wife give me the strength to smash the glass and start a family Help me to be righteous, pious, and inspired to give charity But most of all in uncertain times, bless me with some clarity

Arise, with a new sense of purpose to keep alive There's truth under the disguise There's truth under the disguise I'm ready for the fight But I, won't be wasting time Dreaming of sleep tonight...

Ki ANU AMECHA

כי אנו עמך ואתה אלקינו, אנו בניך ואתה אבינו, אנו עבדיך ואתה אדוננו, אנו קהליך ואתה חלקנו

Our Father, Our King, I've done so many improper things and my sins are weighing me down, It seems like I'm beginning to sink, into the ground, Burdened by an ego so overly inflated that now it's sprung a leak from being too proud, Punctured and learning to shrink, learning to think before I act like a clown, I lower my eyes and bow before you, Pleading for forgiveness knees on the ground, For breaching my vows, and speaking deceitfully I never should have let a negative word leave my mouth, So many injustices I witnessed and did nothing about, I didn't reach out, my cold heart wasn't aroused, But next time I promise I'll turn around, Use the aifts with which I've been endowed. To inspire crowds, to smile past their frowns, Clear away the clouds that shroud how to recognize the divine when shadows surround, Though you've blessed me with many obstacles to surmount, I never lose faith, not even one ounce I'm a man with a yetzer hara ready to pounce, And I fight with all my might to rid myself of doubt, Seal me in the book of life please don't let me drown I'll try harder to stay away from things that aren't allowed, Anah Hashem I shout, beggin G-d to end this drought, Let praises of his name abound through every city and town, Blow the shofar loud to exalt the crown, This year please let my ears hear the sound Of Mashiach's arrival being announced

DEEP BREATHS

ברוך השם, אני נושם ברוך השם, אני נושם ברוך השם, אני נושם Thank G-d I'm breathing... Thank G-d I'm breathing

Every step, of this journey is a struggle Spilled so many tears my toes got soaked in the puddle But whenever I stumbled, I stood back up on the double All attempts to prevent my ascent eventually crumbled, not once did I tumble Though I got a multitude of bruises I strive to keep the colors subtle, Difficult as it is at times, I try to remain somewhat humble But don't mistake my modesty as vulnerable, 'cause I'm indestructible I chew up and spit out haters like I do super bubble If you hear my stomach start to rumble, I strongly suggest you up your hustle I disassemble enemies without even flexin' a muscle It took one hundred tons of heavy chunks of rubble Before I discovered all the pieces that had been missing from my puzzle Prayed to G-d everyday for an escape from this trouble; he sent me a shovel I dug down til I found the strength to rip off this muzzle That tries to muffle my sound, now my words are clear never mumbled Steady pulse, I won't take my eye off the light at the end of the tunnel

ברוך השם, אני נושם ברוך השם, אני נושם ברוך השם, אני נושם Thank G-d I'm breathing... Thank G-d I'm breathing

Who am I to stand before you, broken crying as I implore you To provide me with some guidance because the night tries to distort views These rhymes are like my support group, speak my mind, emotions pour through Off my chest the open door prevents the ignition of my short fuse Look at all the poor fools, think their better I need some more proof None of them can touch me; to them I'm like a porcu---pine These guys is liars I don't waste my time with those that sore lose The present is a gift something we can't afford to misuse Escort me to the court room, G-d's the only judge I report to Rest assured that all I introduce is nothin but the pure truth Once they cut my umbilical cord I understood that I was born to Transform the darkest shades of gray into palette full of warm hues Prior to my favorite form of torture I was just an immature youth But now that I've survived cliff diving I'm as well rounded as a horse shoe Yes I met depression head on and never looked for a detour route Whatever lies in store for me, I'll endure, and improve

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 ao 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

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 lanited 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 facade 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, C-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 bein 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.

l 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