

Star-Fallen Banner by Corey Minatani

Today, two days before leaving prison, I received an email inviting inmates to submit song lyrics for a possible collaboration with Grammy award-winning rapper Lecrae. The sponsor of this contest, Avenir Technologies, LLC, seeks to select the top 25 entries towards a final winner chosen by Rap star Lecrae.

Once all the submissions are collected by the deadline (September 15, 2021), students enrolled at The Morris Brown College Department of Music College review all songs and select the top 25 entries of the best Hip-Hop songs.

After the winning song is chosen, Lecrae and the audio and production teams will travel for a one-day event to produce the song with the winner. The winner then gets to decide whether or not the world-famous Lecrae sings on the music track!

Inmates with music player capability will be able to download the winning song free-of-charge; hopefully this will enhance the dreams of prisoners of success, even while incarcerated. All proceeds earned by the song go to a 501(c)3 charity "selected by Reach Records providing rehabilitative support for the corrections community in the winning state." A win-win-win for all involved.

Not wanting to derail my junior-high school dreams of a career in rapping, I also submitted a concerned piece entitled, "Star-Fallen Banner."

In my song, I contest the indifferent attitudes of politicians; from Black Lives Matter, to women's suffrage in the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban, to incredible inflation, to Critical Race Theory, we live in a tumultuous world. While the poor keep getting poorer, and the rich, richer, ideologues beat us on the head to keep us confused. Either way, the media is amused.

So this music contest is an opportunity, it also provides a voice to those who rap instead of debate; a voice powered by the beats of Hip-Hop rather than politics. I hope and pray the winner not only gets a shot at a recording career, but has the wisdom to look beyond the money and make this world better through their efforts. God Bless.

Here is my song, Star-Fallen Banner.

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by Corey Minatani

V₁

Land of the Greed,
Home of the Crave,
The rich they keep their green,
The poor they tax to grave.
Money all abound,
When the reporters talk about it,
Homeless all around,
All minds quiet, not one makes a sound.

Pre-C

Land of broken promises,
A sea of single mommas,
Armies of these in unemployment,
To the politicians' enjoyment.

C

Land of the greed, home of the crave,
And the ulcers run red, while the wallets are bled.

V₂

My hair that falls out, I need to save,
Thanks corporations, I'm close to grave,
MAKE me think I'm getting clean,
Now I shake, and have to lean,
On a crutch or use a walker,
'Cause the commercial's fast talker,
Anti-biotics and the hand sanitizer,
All give me either Parkinson's or Alzheimers.

Corey Minatani (C) 2021