Rap, Hip Hop, Thinking, People, Writing, Rapper, Men, Trying, Mind, Games, Hips, Reading, Eye, Years, Way, Artist, Knows, Long, Different, Kids

Take 7 emcees put em in a line And add 7 more brothers who think they can rhyme It'll take 7 more before I go for mine And that's 21 emcees ate up at the same time.

~Rakim

I start to think, and then I sink Into the paper like I was ink When I'm writing, I'm trapped in between the lines I escape when I finish the rhyme.

~Rakim

It ain't where you're from, it's where you're at.

~Rakim

Stay wise and the mind is untouchable.

~Rakim

Teach the youth to speak the truth, show them what peace can do ~Rakim

I'm just an addict, addicted to music Maybe it's a habit...I gotta use it. ~Rakim

Timeless, so age don't count in the booth When your flow stay submerged in the fountain of youth

~Rakim

Thinkin' of a master plan Cause ain't nothin' but sweat inside my hand. ~Rakim

So I start my mission- leave my residence Thinkin how could I get some dead presidents

~Rakim

I'm everlastin, I can go on for days and days With rhyme displays that

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engrave deep as X-rays I can take a phrase that's rarely heard, FLIP IT Now it's a daily word

~Rakim

I get a craving like I fiend for nicotine. But I don't need a cigarette, know what I mean?

~Rakim

What was once easy became confused and hard, which brings us back to the mystic question, who is God?

~Rakim

I wake you up and as I stare in your face, you seem stunned. Remember me? The one you got your idea from?

~Rakim

When you get to know your self, you get to know everyone and everything on the planet.

~Rakim

I love listening to old records to keep nostalgic feeling; it allows me to not lose the love for hip-hop.

~Rakim

I try to keep myself out of the unnecessary bullshit.

~Rakim

I used to roll up: this is a hold up, ain't nuthin funny. Stop smiling, be still, don't nuthin move but the money.

~Rakim

It's a bold statement but I think people need to read between the lines.

~Rakim

I ain't no joke, I used to let the mic smoke, Now I slam it when I'm done and make sure it's broke.

~Rakim

What's powerful about the mind, the mind comes through every physical and when the physical goes the mind still exists.

~Rakim

It's been a long time...I shouldn't have left you Without a strong rhyme to step to.

~Rakim

The older I get the wiser and more skillful I get.

~Rakim

I go to Queens for queens to get the crew from Brooklyn, Make money in Manhattan and never been tooken. Go Uptown and the Bronx to boogie down, Get strong on the Island, recoup, and lay around.

~Rakim

The mind is one of Allah's best designs.

~Rakim

You can't win for losing.

~Rakim

So all hail the honorable, microphone phenomenal Persona is unbombable? Trust me son, I continue like a saga do, bringin' you the drama to allow you that the chronicle has just begun.

4/14

~Rakim

Self-esteem makes me super, superb and supreme

~Rakim

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Rakim Quotes

I've always tried to insert consciousness and spirituality in my records, interpreting the writings of all cultures and religions and how they apply to life in modern times.

~Rakim

We lost the connection between the entertainment world and the neighborhoods.

~Rakim

You can look in a book of wrong and learn more right. If you're reading a book that has all wrong in it, you're learning what not to do.

~Rakim

I always had an intelligence with me, I was always in the streets, I was always trying to do good. I was always looking for something to guide me. In the beginning church wasn't it.

~Rakim

I just try to do me and stay out of harms way.

~Rakim

I can take a phrase that's rarely heard/Flip it - now it's a daily word ~Rakim

Tried to put shame in my game to make a name, I'mma put it on a bullet...put it in your brain.

~Rakim

I had a little more freedom when I started sampling because you could actually do what you wanted to do.

~Rakim

Now I got kids and I'm more wise now. Life means more to me than having fun. I'm more calm, more wise, and more cautious.

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~Rakim

Being in this game if you are gonna sell drugs and make records too then as many records you make is gonna be as many people that know you sell drugs. We got the hip hop cops listening now.

~Rakim

I got one of the illest crews in NY but when I travel it's mostly me and my girl, me and my kids or me and one or two of my dudes but the majority of the time its just me.

~Rakim

I'm one dude and when I make my bed I lay in it but don't stereotype me. Never sold a crumb to this day and I don't do nothing on the side.

~Rakim

You can hear the seven sins Blowin' through the ghetto wind.

~Rakim

There's so many different ways to write a rhyme its stupid man. I don't understand why the majority of the rap game sounds the same.

~Rakim

And I'll break, when I'm through breakin, I'll leave you broke, Drop the mic when I'm finished, and watch it smoke

~Rakim

Hopefully the rappers can start to open the eyes in the neighborhoods and communities.

~Rakim

Some of you been trying to write rhymes for years, But weak ideas irritate my ears. Is this the best that you can make? Cause if not, and you got more...I'll wait.

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~Rakim

I saw a lot when I was young. The first time I got arrested I was twelve years old.

~Rakim

I don't work out too much. I just do some pushups when I feel the right hook is getting a lil weak.

~Rakim

Now life is imitating art.

~Rakim

Everything becomes too normal after a while.

~Rakim

When I go out I get so much love I gotta change my way of thinking.

~Rakim

Feed me hip-hop and I start tremblin'

~Rakim

When you're trying to please both sides of the fence at the same time you really can't do that.

~Rakim

Do what you do don't let the label tell you to do something else.

~Rakim

Every time someone come out with an album don't change the whole style up but don't do what they are expecting. Surprise them.

~Rakim

I've always been a picky eater but I'm not the healthiest eater.

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~Rakim

It is what it is but I do me and I think people respect that. They see me out in the hood by myself or with wifey and I don't have no bodyguards.

~Rakim

I loved the hood and still love the hood but I had to realize like Ra you a rapper now you're in the public eye.

~Rakim

Get your money and as long as nobody is stepping on my wad then we're good.

~Rakim

If something comes at me of course I'm gonna handle my business but I'm not the type to provoke the bullshit so I don't really get a lot of that.

~Rakim

Go to the club or go to the block or go hang out and things start coming.

~Rakim

There is still consciousness in hip hop.

~Rakim

Sometimes I can't believe half of the love that I get.

~Rakim

Not follow me but follow the lyrics.

~Rakim

The physical was never the best part of the body.

~Rakim

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That's another thing yo rappers are scared to bring new styles out. There's so many different ways we can be flowing but everybody chooses to flow the generic way.

~Rakim

Subconsciously, Islam took over me so it was like eighty or ninety percent of the fabric of the person I was.

~Rakim

Once you start making money you have to put things into perspective.

~Rakim

Playing the sax and then enjoying jazz music man. It's like I learned how to find words inside of the beat.

~Rakim

When I write I get to the point where I slow down and I gotta go back into the world and live nahmean.

~Rakim

I just try to eat as good as possible.

~Rakim

I think it's a combination of my peoples that I grew up under, places that I hung out is what contributed to where I'm at now.

~Rakim

I always had deep respect for my peoples 'cause of the love they gave me and the know how that they showed me through the years.

~Rakim

Dabbling in music and being in music when I was young I had my own view of what I thought music was whether it was jazz, r&b, or hip hop.

~Rakim

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Rakim Quotes

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I'm not a flamboyant artist.

~Rakim

I never went to college. I think about it a lot. I can't watch a game without thinking where I would have been if I had ga head and went to college and pursued my career.

~Rakim

You gotta let the fans shine their glory the way they want. It's like I have a million bosses and my job is to make them happy.

~Rakim

When I hear my first album today I hear myself reading my rhymes but I'm my worst critic.

~Rakim

I don't try to go to the studio and make a single. I just do whatever I feel.

~Rakim

Sometimes I feel I'm the luckiest rapper in the world.

~Rakim

Sometimes people say yo do you think rap changed you. No doubt it changed me. If I wasn't making records I'd still be hanging every night.

~Rakim

Whenever I write a song I see the whole song anyway.

~Rakim

Back then all I cared about was rhyming and making beats. That was my trade, my hobby.

~Rakim

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I always wanted to kind of make the listener feel like it was them that I was talking about, or to the point that I could say the rhyme, and feel like it's them saying it.

~Rakim

The money from every unit being sold is what I feel every artist should see.

~Rakim

I never sold drugs. A lot of people used to think I was that dude but I never sold a crumb. I used to always be upset with that.

~Rakim

My whole thing is if it wasn't for people like ya'll and people like them I wouldn't be me. I love every minute of it.

~Rakim

I go up in the supermarkets and people always go what are you doing here and I go I'm hungry in a sarcastic but nice way just to let them know yo I'm human too man.

~Rakim

Sometimes I see where I want to take the song and wind up at the end and come back to the beginning. I don't miss nothing and everything is good. Everything I thought of is incorporated in it.

~Rakim

Once I get the track I know what to do with it.

~Rakim

I feel that when we leave here I think it's just another transition and whatever it is I hope I'm prepared for it.

~Rakim

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I kinda write in sequences that I live through.

~Rakim

Once I finish one album I know where to begin again.

~Rakim

When you come in the building with your guns don't take them off.

~Rakim

I don't work out too much and it's wild because it bugs me out.

~Rakim

Before I started rapping and touring I weighed about 160. But by going on the road every night eating fast food, performing every night, partying and drinking I started gaining weight immediately.

~Rakim

If anybody can make a change it's the rappers.

~Rakim

A lot of reasons I didn't do records with people is because I never wanted their light to reflect on me.

~Rakim

A lot of the things that go on we can avoid some of it.

~Rakim

I always gave my moms and pops the utmost respect. I didn't talk back to my peoples. The way they presented themselves to us, we knew. Don't talk back to moms and pops.

~Rakim

Things happen for a reason.

~Rakim

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Rakim Quotes I always tried to manage my money smart. ~Rakim

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