Spiritual/hip-hop comparison and analysis



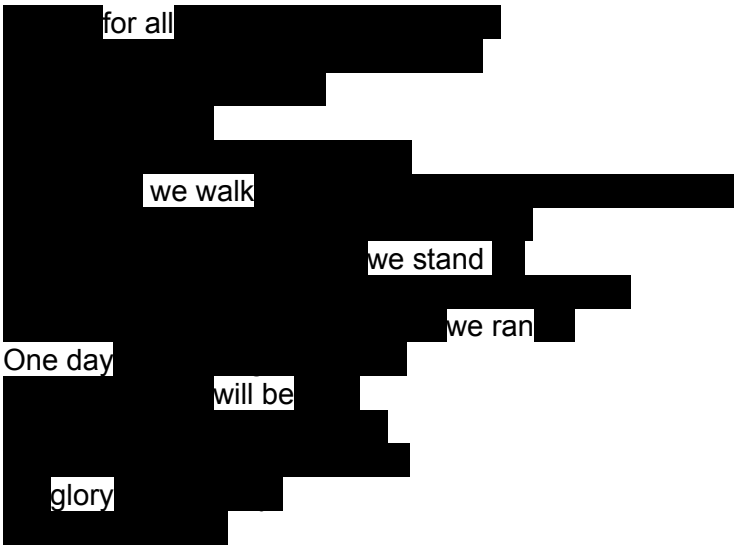
Common feat. John Legend - Glory

[redacted]

One day
[redacted] will be
glory [redacted]
to the Heavens
[redacted]

Every day
Sins [redacted] become blessings
[redacted]

Freedom
Justice [redacted]



When first considering the connection between spirituals and modern day hip-hop and rap, the easiest thing to see is race. The majority of rap and hip-hop songs of today are written by black artists. Spirituals were all creations by African American slaves. Something the two groups have in common is their sufferings because of their race. Racism now and slavery then are the key trials refrenced in the majority of these songs. In “Glory” by Common (ft. John Legend) and in the spiritual “I’ll Fly Away”, there is a strong connection within themes. They both address the sufferings they’ve experienced but instead of focusing on them both songs speak of hope to the day they are in Heaven and free from their tribulations, or when things in our world are better. These lyrics from “Glory”, “When the war is won, when it's all said and done we'll cry glory” show this theme and connect to those from the spiritual: “Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away to a land where joy shall never end.” The image, “Emancipation”, shows on the left the trials and sufferings of slaves, and on the right and middle images of freedom and a happy life for African Americans. The top of the image portrays an angelic figure descending from heaven with freedom. This can be compared to the two chosen songs in that it acknowledges the sufferings experienced, but looks on with hope, and up towards heaven in knowledge that one day, whether on earth or in heaven, things will be better.

Common feat. John Legend - Glory	I'll Fly Away

Common feat. John Legend - Glory

One day when the glory comes
It will be ours, it will be ours
Oh one day when the war is won
We will be sure, we will be sure
Oh glory (glory, glory)
Oh (glory, glory)
Hands to the Heavens, no man, no weapon
Formed against, yes glory is destined
Every day women and men become legends
Sins that go against our skin become blessings
The movement is a rhythm to us
Freedom is like religion to us
Justice is juxtapositioning us
Justice for all just ain't specific enough
One son died, his spirit is revisitin' us
Truant livin' livin' in us, resistance is us
That's why Rosa sat on the bus
That's why we walk through Ferguson with our hands up
When it go down we woman and man up
They say, "Stay down", and we stand up
Shots, we on the ground, the camera panned up
King pointed to the mountain top and we ran up
One day when the glory comes
It will be ours, it will be ours
Oh one day when the war is won
We will be sure, we will be sure
Oh glory (glory, glory)
Oh (glory, glory)
Now the war is not over, victory isn't won
And we'll fight on to the finish, then when it's all done
We'll cry glory, oh glory (glory, glory)
Oh (glory, glory)
We'll cry glory, oh glory (glory, glory)
Oh (glory, glory)
Selma's now for every man, woman and child
Even Jesus got his crown in front of a crowd
They marched with the torch, we gon' run with it now
Never look back, we done gone hundreds of miles
From dark roads he rose, to become a hero
Facin' the league of justice, his power was the people

Some glad morning when this life is over
I'll fly away
To a home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away
I'll fly away, oh, Glory
I'll fly away
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away
Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joy shall never end
I'll fly away
I'll fly away, oh, Glory
I'll fly away
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away
Yeah, when I die, Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away

Enemy is lethal, a king became regal Saw the face of Jim Crow under a bald eagle The biggest weapon is to stay peaceful We sing, our music is the cuts that we bleed through Somewhere in the dream we had an epiphany Now we right the wrongs in history No one can win the war individually It takes the wisdom of the elders and young people's energy Welcome to the story we call victory The comin' of the Lord, my eyes have seen the glory One day when the glory comes It will be ours, it will be ours Oh one day when the war is won We will be sure, we will be sure Oh glory (glory, glory) Oh (glory, glory) Oh glory (Glory, glory) Hey (glory, glory) When the war is won, when it's all said and done We'll cry glory (glory, glory) Oh (glory, glory)	