**The Lord is My Shepperd Painting and Background – NY Times Article**

[**https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/30/painting-freedom/**](https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/30/painting-freedom/)

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**Gangsta’s Paradise**

***Coolio***

As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
I take a look at my life and realize there's nothin' left  
'Cause I've been blastin' and laughin' so long that  
Even my momma thinks that my mind is gone

But I ain't never crossed a man that didn't deserve it  
Me be treated like a punk, you know that's unheard of  
You better watch how you talkin' and where you walkin'  
Or you and your homies might be lined in chalk

I really hate to trip, but I gotta loc  
As they croak, I see myself in the pistol smoke  
Fool, I'm the kinda G the little homies wanna be like  
On my knees in the night, sayin' prayers in the streetlight

Been spendin' most their lives  
Livin' in a gangsta's paradise  
Been spendin' most their lives  
Livin' in a gangsta's paradise  
Keep spendin' most our lives  
Livin' in a gangsta's paradise  
Keep spendin' most our lives  
Livin' in a gangsta's paradise

Look at the situation they got me facing  
I can't live a normal life, I was raised by the street  
So I gotta be down with the hood team  
Too much television watchin', got me chasing dreams

I'm a educated fool with money on my mind  
Got my ten in my hand and a gleam in my eye  
I'm a loc'd out gangsta, set trippin' banger  
And my homies is down, so don't arouse my anger

Fool, death ain't nothin' but a heart beat away  
I'm livin' life do or die, what can I say?  
I'm 23 now but will I live to see 24?  
The way things is going I don't know

Tell me why are we so blind to see  
That the ones we hurt are you and me?

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Power and the money, money and the power  
Minute after minute, hour after hour  
Everybody's runnin', but half of them ain't lookin'  
It's going on in the kitchen, but I don't know what's cookin'

They say I gotta learn, but nobody's here to teach me  
If they can't understand it, how can they reach me?  
I guess they can't, I guess they won't  
I guess they front, that's why I know my life is out of luck, fool

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