

# When the Devil Comes



Rolando Ortiz

When the devil comes around my town  
He carries a list of names he's come to claim  
The lost souls that shoot each other down in the streets are bound for hell  
The innocent ones caught in the cross fire will be given wings to sing with the rest of the angels  
Sometimes even the singing angels cant stop the devil  
The lost souls sometimes find their souls but it's to late  
They may have repent and ask for forgiveness but it's to late  
I have attended too many funerals for a man my age  
So I sin  
The reflection in the mirror may look clear but my soul is stained  
Will the Lord let me in when I knock at his door  
Will he have a room for me  
Or will my name be on the devils list



Rolando Ortiz was born in East Los Angeles to undocumented parents in 1975. He was the youngest of seven children. Three of Rolando's brothers belong to the same gang that paved the way for Rolando to follow. Rolando has spent time behind bars as a minor and an adult. Rolando was discovered by Bruce George the creator of Def Poetry Jam at a small open mic in Downtown Los Angeles. Bruce George published Rolando's first work in an anthology "The Bandana Republic". Rolando speaks to troubled youth and conducts writing workshops with them. Rolando also has began to speak at colleges and universities on gang prevention and his life. Rolando asserts "reading and writing saved my life"