

# Y'all My Niggas

Nas

We use the word everyday  
Now we don't know the capacity of this word  
Are we headed for conflict or not? (Yes sir)  
Because we did not break down the capacity  
Of the same what (The same word)  
Brothers and sisters, this is why we hung up the consciousness  
We've been taught wrong

Find a room to lock yourself in and close the door  
It's some heavy concepts that we gotta explore  
We gotta strip the word down rugged and raw  
The rhetoric of Martin King just ain't around no more  
Du Bois ain't here, James Baldwin neither, they all were leaders  
But they ain't help me get this Porsche two seater  
A lawyer left the hood, he never looked back  
To be a Fortune 500 CEO and took rap  
So what if my pants sag with my hat turned back?  
The same swag got our merchandise flying off the rack  
Marketing companies is hiring blacks  
Fresh hip-hop lingo for your campaign ads  
Controversy surrounds who could say it and when  
Some niggas are full time, some play and pretend  
So fuck that, no apologies on the issue  
If it offends you it's meant to, it's that simple

Tryin' to erase me from y'all memory  
Too late, I'm engraved in history (I'm here my niggas!)  
Speak my name and breathe life in me  
Make sure y'all never forget me ('Cause y'all give me life!)  
'Cause y'all use my name so reckless  
Whether to be accepted or disrespected (And I love it!)  
And I love it, especially when y'all do it in public  
And I'm the subject  
'Cause y'all my niggas

Yo, I was thinkin' a little bit  
What would it take to authenticate my nigganess?  
Ball ridiculous? 26 inches when I call up the dealership?  
Aww that's some nigga shit  
We only out for our own benefit?  
We havin' too many kids? We Claudines? Welfare recipients?  
The infamous free clinics is the sickest shit  
Make me think what the hell they clean they syringes with  
Everybody bleeding, the cops are the demons  
Courtrooms full of goons, jail buses leanin'  
Handcuffs squeezed too tight on youth life  
If you fight they just give in, people used to do sit ins  
They got Nigeria and Niger, two different countries  
Somehow Niger turned to nigger, and shit got ugly  
The problem is we started thinking like the colonists  
'Til Noble Drew Ali started droppin' that consciousness

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My father was not a banker, neither was my neighbor  
When it came to gettin' paper who the hell was gonna train us?  
Oppresion couldn't escape us through the ages  
We changed the basis of derogatory phrases  
And I say it's quite amazing  
The use of ghetto terms developed out own language  
No matter where it came from  
It's celebrated, now people are mad if they ain't one

Every word we use, it has a capacity  
And if you don't understand the words you're using  
And understand the capacity of it  
You are using words that is creating a destiny for you  
That you don't even know, or even conscious of

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