

# The Proud

Talib Kweli

The proud  
Stand tall or don't stand at all, c'mon  
Uhh, yeah  
Break it down  
What we do?

We survive, it's more than pride  
We stay alive, ready to ride

One two, one two yo  
Aight.. put it down yo  
June 21, 2001  
Timothy McVeigh is executed  
And the country breathe a sigh of relief  
Goodness prevails over evil, it seems  
Somehow when he's gone, we feel safer  
Little do we know

Today the paper say Timothy McVeigh's in hell  
So everything's okay and all must be well  
I remember Oklahoma when they put out the blaze  
And put Islamic terrorist bombing, on the front page  
It's like saying only gays get AIDS, propaganda  
Like saying the problem's over when they locked that man up  
Wrong! It's just the beginning, the first inning  
Battle for America's soul, the devil's winning  
The President is Bush, the Vice President's a Dick  
So a whole lot of fuckin is what we gon' get  
They don't wanna raise the babies so the election is fixed  
That's why we don't be fuckin with politics  
They bet on that, parents fought and got wet for that  
Hosed down, bit by dogs, and got blacks into house arrest for that  
It's all good except for that - we still poor  
Money, power and respect is what we kill for, for real

August 4, 2001  
A drunken police officer mows down an entire family in Brooklyn  
The judge lets him go with no bail  
It reminds us, of just how worthless our lives are to the justice system  
I struggle, to explain the situation to my son, it's hard

Niggaz with knowledge is more dangerous than than niggaz with guns  
They make the guns easy to get and try to keep niggaz dumb  
Target the gangs and graffiti with the Prop 21  
I already know the deal but what the fuck do I tell my son?  
I want him livin right, livin good, respect the rules  
He's five years old and he still thinkin cops is cool  
How do I break the news that when he gets some size  
He'll be percieved as a threat or see the fear in they eyes  
It's in they job description to terminate the threat  
So 41 shots to the body is what he can expect  
The precedent is set, don't matter if he follow the law  
I know I'll give my son pride and make him swallow it all (damn!)  
Fuck the pigs! I think the pigs killed Big and 'Pac too  
If they didn't they know who did, they got to!  
Who they serve and protect, nigga not you  
Cops shot off of ten G's but they got glocks too

Let you protect yourself, or better yet respect yourself  
Straight into the hospital is where you gotta check yourself  
They be gettin tips from snitches and rival crews  
Doin them favors so they workin for the drug dealers too  
Just business enforcers with hate in they holsters  
Shoot you in the back, won't face you like a soldier  
Kurt Loder asked me what I say to a dead cop's wife  
Cops kill my people everyday, that's life

September 11, 2001

Terrorists attack the Pentagon and the World Trade Center  
Kills thousand and permanently scars America's false sense of security  
We see the best examples of humanity in the face of the worst  
As fire fighters, police officers, rescue workers  
and volunteers of all sorts, fight to save lives  
The world will never be the same again

My heart go out to everybody at Ground Zero  
Red, black, yellow, white and brown heroes  
It's more complicated than black and white  
To give your own life is the greatest sacrifice  
But it's hard for me to walk down the block  
Seeing rats and roaches, crack viles and 40 ounce posters  
People broken down from years of oppression  
Become patriots when they way of life is threatened  
It's a hard conversation to have  
We lost kids, moms and dads, people ready to fight for the flag  
Damn, when did shit get this bad?  
America kill the innocent too, the cycle of violence is sad  
Damn! Welcome to the world, we here  
We've been at, war for years but it's much more clear (yeah)  
We got to face what lies ahead  
Fight for our truth and freedom and, ride for the dead

[Chorus - repeat to end]