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XTC

"Reason"

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[Chous: Woman singing]
I see people hating other people
Tell me what's the reason
That your kid is hungry, you ain't got no money
What's the reason?

[Verse 1: Nas]

By the time of age nine I'm already decidin'

If I can protect mommy from the hood by fightin'

Or usin' a knife or a gun when I'm twenty-one

By by then them hoods woulda pushed their way in our apartment

And we die then, so I been a young nervous wreck in the projects

Watchin' them older niggaz pass pot and they high man

I'm just a young boy, snot nose, hair nappy Cops ride by squeezin' their trigger fingers at me So I would go to school and try to get good grades Teacher wrote mommy and kicked me outta school for havin' braids

So she cussed them, said "My son ain't no motherfuckin' hoodlum"

They judged us, thinking that we dumb 'cause where we come from

Got a little older and now I see

Young niggaz wanted by the powers that be (powers that be)

[Chorus: Woman singing]

I see people hating other people

Tell me what's the reason

That your kid is hungry, you ain't got no money

What's the reason?

For these wars we're fighting with each other

Season after season

When you're workin' hard, but there ain't nothing comin'

What's the reason?

[Verse 2: Nas]

Uh, picture a Black nanny and a baby in a basket pushin' down 5th Ave

She never had it, it's not hers to begin with

She gives it breakfast, baths and dinners

Treats it so tender while her own kids live alone at home with no phone on

Ain't had a good meal in so long, but so long as mommy's a maid

Cookin' and cleanin', she wanna feed her kids and her kids are dreamin'

Where's my daddy, who's my daddy, have you seen him?

I could imagine them askin', what type of human be-ing Could leave his family, go back to the Carribean? Was he locked up, shot up, does he have freedom? Mom said wipe your tears, keep readin' But daddy's somewhere, spirit broken, feelin' defeated A man feels he has to conquer all The world is his oyster, his pearl so y'all know

[Chorus: Woman singing]

I can't find no reason why we can't all live in peace 'Cause this world keeps spinning, yet still I wonder what's the reason

I see people hating other people
Tell me what's the reason
When you're workin' hard but there ain't nothin' comin'
What's the reason?
Oooh-whoa-ooh-whoa

[Verse 3: Nas]

I know a girl, her boyfriend was a fugitive She's intuitive, be on some stupid shit She called the cops 'cause she hated his mother Now he away doin' numbers, now she gay with her lover

How many niggaz gon' die this summer? I pump life in my music, but still life is a wonder There's a officer in a squad car, he's a prostitute serial killer

It's odd, huh? 'Cause he's the same cop in church with his wife

He's molestin' his son and she ignores it at night Little bad ass bastard, lights a match and kills Betty Shabazz

in her pad while she slept

They said Prescott Bush funded Hitler while the world's in a twister

Nigga, what you expect? Imagine what's next

[Chorus: Woman singing]

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What's the reason?

For these wars we're fighting with each other

Season after season

When you're workin' hard, but there ain't nothing comin'

What's the reason?

Woman harmonizes as Nas talks:

"Uh, uh, man, man'll search the whole planet, looking for what

Try to conquer all. So what? To all my niggaz with they kids that love they kids, man. All the daddies out there To all the niggaz that died tryin'a figure out what's what

Tryin'a be the biggest of the big, you know. Yeah, yeah Ladies forgive us. Gotta forgive us. For we know not what

we do. Breakin' hearts, leavin' the crib, buggin' out and shit. Just man... man."

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