

Mos Def & Talib Kweli "Twice Inna Lifetime"

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Yo, we been through this before right?
(Word, word)
So we figurin', if we gonna do it
We gotta freak it, you know what I'm sayin?
(True, true, true)
'Cuz everything gotta go up from here, right?
So hi-tek, turn it up a notch

Hail Mary, 'matta fact hail Jane Niggaz take my name in vain like I was cocaine My affirmations kill emcees like assassination Bringin' you pain until you wish you had a vaccination

Or vaccine, I shine like Vaseline
Gas plays like petroleum, walk over them like linoleum
My vocab expand like a rubber band
Walkin' naked through the motherland
Give the finger to my brother man

Niggaz just don't understand my reasons I transcend like season And scar these rappers like legion It's treason, my suspension attract attention I'm ventin', givin' these chicken heads detention

Did I mention my name, yo, go by the Jane Doe Drenched in polo, chill downtown in Soho You don't know, this is just half my potential Check my credentials, come harder than sequential

It's essential, you listen, I drive you a pedestrian They bless me on the track 'cuz I attack wit' the estrogen

Rhyme against the best a men, Jane burn it up When you hear it in the whip, tell your man to turn it up

Yo, get it, yo, yo, we fortified live, supportin' allies The wack is tryin' to shorten our lives, it sorta waters my eyes

But here is somethin' the cryin' talk about
The verse on that cassette you and cousin fought about
That led to God and Satan's fallin' out

Encourage the liquor for those who ain't here that you pourin' out

On 3-way, your parents, preacher and spouse called my house

Revive or ruin, my theories of mics Sony or Aiwa, black or white, I fit in all stereotypes

Search for a cast to plot, I make you a laughin' stock So shook, I could walk a half a block and feel the aftershocks

Rain of acid drops, seek some help, now don't rewind Get it the first time, shouldn't have to repeat myself Eternally verbally, I have numbers, succumb to time outs

In rhyme 'bouts you'll dial 9, just to get a line out

Known fact or factors and non-rappers fractured Results in more cast appearances than a hundred actors

Emcees I'm testin' like diseases injected in gerbils Word's worth, Kweli, Hi-Tek, reflection eternal what

My style high life like fonz when I burn heads like a conk

'Cuz niggaz front, when their chances get slim like pharoahe monch

Thinkin' they shits is heavy when they light like illumination

Intellectual masturbation with premature ejaculation

I'm comin' cleaner than vaccinations
My fascination with character assassination
Got these niggaz burnin' like sensation
We keep it hot like matches and on lock like latches
Wack emcees get they microphones snatched like lee
patches

So you go to every wack muthafucka that you know My lyrics they get up in your jeans like parasucos So there's no mystery about the father, niggaz is hot and bothered

Like the bitches that they are

Takin' pictures with stars and got 'em open But after they little hopes and dreams get broken Me and Hi-Tek, we live long and prosper like vulcans Think I'm jokin'? We both got sons, we make cream and break dreams

See through the fake schemes, wipin' your slate clean Like a squeegee, we be lightin' shit up like phosphorus Turnin' flamboyant niggaz anonymous Depressin' to optimus, you stoppin' us is preposterous Like an androgynous masohganist, you pickin' the wrong time

Steppin' to me when I'm in my prime like optimus

Transformin', from rookie of the year to veteran Hip-hop is big business like Con Edison or medicine But fuck it, they gonna let us in, or else we rush the door

I got too many reasons, save your 'whys' and 'what fors'

This is twice inna lifetime so I'm lettin' you know, let 'em know yo

Black star, word's worth, punchline and Jane Doe, yo! Lyrical com-pete and we emcee We got the fortified five, exhibit level degree

Check it, I keep dough in my pocket while you follow the false prophet

Get deep like Islamics wrapped in a white garment I touch topics that try to open up your optics Vacate in the tropics, you dodgin' bullets in the projects

Cut the nonsense, I'm hotter than a lot a men Start honorin', got more wifeys than Solomon Fuck the squad you in, a-yo we be the bid domb Regardless what I spit on, you worse with the tracks I shit on

Once you get on, it's fair you can't trust, yes Words and punch, make rappers march like the third month

I build with friends, lyrically spit gems Call me diamond, 'cuz I'm your girl's best friend

Emcees are born losers, alcoholic abusers
I'll go on the radio and start a gay rumor
And then I'll talk about how the crowd tried to boo ya
Label shoot ya, stressed out with brain tumors

My gat claps, 50 percent of the wack Take it back to real rap, krylons wit' the fat cap Get robbed for your ascap, leave you inside Fortified live, reppin' N Y 'til I die

Black body radiation situation that we workin' wit'
My verb exists enlisted by the bogeys campin' services
The purpose is, make you go and purchase this, no

nervousness

We are, hot like black tar, black star with emergence

Superlative, you fabricated like the word absurditive I'm rockin' this from here to where the purges live To Brooklyn where the merchants live, next door to the murderers

And bourbon is a elder man's medicinal alternative

My memory is furnished with, back streets to back seats to fat jeeps

Legendary athletes who play by the trash heap My crew wasn't that deep but beef we didn't act sweet Treadin' on these stompin' grounds you better catch some black feet

Flashy, it was between Dekalb and Pulaski
Off the meter like an out of borough taxi
They run your pockets fastly, black and nasty, nappy
and crafty
And swat are either sittin' in Clinton or Kaksaki

Man Rudolph can screw off, you too soft to stop us You and your coppers should see some foot doctors Got your burnt chest popped up, but keep your guns cocked up

'Cuz all them cats that you knocked up and always gon' be locked up

Hide yaself like Donna Summer, another number one And comin' from the underground, this is how it's comin' down Baby let me run it down Mos Def, Talib Kweli, Jane Doe, punch, wor umm, E

Excuse me! just ate another emcee Sometimes that's just how it be Partner wash you down with green tea and some lime We like the five on the fist, fortified organized like dis

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