

# Nas

## "I Can"

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I know I can  
Be what I wanna be  
If I work hard at it  
I'll be where I wanna be

I know I can  
(I know I can)  
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If I work hard at it  
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I'll be where I wanna be  
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Be, b-boys and girls, listen up  
You can be anything in the world, in God we trust  
An architect, doctor, maybe an actress  
But nothing comes easy, it takes much practice  
Like, I met a woman who's becoming a star  
She was very beautiful, leaving people in awe  
Singing songs, Lina Horn, but the younger version  
Hung with the wrong person, got her strung on that  
heroin

Cocaine sniffing up drugs all in her nose  
Coulda died, so young, now looks ugly and old  
No fun 'cause now when she reaches for hugs people  
hold they breath  
'Cause she smells of corrosion and death  
Watch the company you keep and the crowd you bring  
'Cause they came to do drugs and you came to sing  
So if you gonna be the best, I'm a tell you how  
Put your hands in the air and take a vow

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Be, b-boys and girls, listen again  
This is for grown looking girls who's only ten  
The ones who watch videos and do what they see  
As cute as can be, up in the club with fake ID  
Careful, 'fore you meet a man with HIV  
You can host the TV like Oprah Winfrey  
Whatever you decide, be careful, some men be  
Rapists, so act your age, don't pretend to be

Older than you are, give yourself time to grow  
You thinking he can give you wealth, but so  
Young boys, you can use a lot of help, you know  
You thinking life's all about smoking weed and ice  
You don't wanna be my age and can't read and write  
Begging different women for a place to sleep at night  
Smart boys turn to men and do whatever they wish  
If you believe you can achieve, then say it like this

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Be, be'fore we came to this country  
We were kings and queens, never porch monkeys  
There was empires in Africa called Kush  
Timbuktu, where every race came to get books  
To learn from black teachers who taught Greeks and

Romans

Asian, Arabs and gave them gold when  
Gold was converted to money it all changed  
Money then became empowerment for Europeans

The Persian military invaded  
They heard about the gold, the teachings and  
everything sacred  
Africa was almost robbed naked  
Slavery was money, so they began making slave ships  
Egypt was the place that Alexander the great went  
He was so shocked at the mountains with black faces  
Shot off they nose to impose what basically  
Still goes on today, you see?

If the truth is told, the youth can grow  
Then learn to survive until they gain control  
Nobody says you have to be gangstas, hoes  
Read more, learn more, change the globe  
Ghetto children, do your thing  
Hold your head up, little man, you're a king  
Young princess, when you get your wedding ring  
Your man is saying "She's my queen"

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Save the music y'all, save the music y'all  
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Save the music

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