

## Nas "Y'all My Ni\*\*as"

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We use the word everyday  
Now, if we don't know the capacity of this word  
Are we having a 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 in our consciousness  
We been talking 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 either, 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, it 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

The controversy surrounds who could say it and win  
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, 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 thinking a little bit

What would it take to authenticate my nigganess?  
Ball ridiculous, twenty six inches when I call up the  
dealership?  
Aw, that's some nigga shit

We only out for our own benefit? We havin' too many  
kids?  
We're claudines, welfare recipients  
The infamous free clinics is the sickest shit  
Make me think what the hell they clean their syringes  
with

Everybody bleeding, the cops and the demons  
Courtrooms full of goons, jail-busters leaning  
Handcuffs squeezed too tight on you flight  
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  
To know the [Incomprehensible] started dropping their  
consciousness

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My father was not a banker neither was my neighbor  
When it came to getting paper, who the hell was gonna  
train us?  
A pressure 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 our 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 word 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 are even conscious of

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