

Saul Williams

"Penny for a Thought"

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Cancel the apocalypse
cartons of the milky way with pictures of a missing
planet
last seen in pursuit of an American dream
this fool actually thinks he can drive his hummer on the
moon
blasting DMX off the soundtrack of a South Park
cartoon
niggas used to buy their families out of slavery
now we buy chains and links, smokes and drinks
they're paying me to record this, even more if you hear
it
somebody tell me what you think I should do with the
money
yes, friend tell me what you think I should do with the
money
exactly how much is it gonna cost to free Mumia?
what's he gonna do with his freedom? talk on the
radio?
radio programming is just that - a brainwashin'
gleamed of purpose
to be honest, some freedom of speech makes me
nervous
and you looking for another martyr in the form of a
man
hair like a mane with an outstretched hand
in a roar of hearts, thoughts, reactionary
defensiveness and counter
intelligence
what exactly is innocence?
fuck it, I do believe in the existence of police brutality
who do I make checks payable to?
a young child stares at a glowing screen transfixed by
tales of violence
his teenage father tells him that that's life, not that
Barney shit
a purple dinosaur that speaks of love, a black man that
speaks of blood
which one is keeping it real, son?
who manufactured your steel, son?
hardcore, ancient elements at the earth's core
fuck it, I'mma keep speaking 'til my throats sore

an emcee told a crowd of hundreds to put their hands
in the air
an armed robber stepped to a bank and told everyone
to put their hands in
the air
a Christian minister gives his benediction while the
congregation hold
their hands in the air
love the image of the happy Buddha with his hands in
the air
hands up and feel confused, define tomorrow
your belief system ain't louder than my car system
nigga walked down my block with his rotwiler, a
subwoofer on a leash
each one teach one
the DJ spins a new philosophy into a barren mind
I can't front on it
my head nods as if to clear the last image from an
etch-a-sketch
something like Rakim said- I could quote any emcee,
but why should I?
how would it benefit me? karmic repercussions
are your tales of reality worth their sonic laced
discussions?
suddenly, the ground shivers and quakes
a newborn startles and wakes
her mother rushes to her bed side to hold her to her
breast
milk of sustenance heals and nourishes
from the depths of creation life still flourishes
yet we focus on death and destruction, violence,
corruption
my people, let pharaoh go
what have you bought into? how much will it cost to buy
you out?
what have you bought into? how much will it cost to buy
you out?
what have you bought into? how much will it cost to buy
you out?

(spoken)

how much it gonna cost to buy you out of my mind?
penny for a thought, y'all niggas is half steppin' wastin'
my time
please, nigga what? you talkin to me?
please baby, baby, baby can I borrow - can i borrow a
nickle, a dime, and
that quarter
penny for a thought, penny for a thought
how much will it cost to buy you out of buyin' into a
reality that

originally bought you?
dime a dozen, y'all niggas a dime a dozen
penny for a thought, nigga, c'mon, penny for a thought
think fast, think fast, c'mon, time is money

time is money, money is time
so i keep 7 o'clock in the bank and gain interest in the
hour of God
I'm saving to buy my freedom, God, grant me wings,
I'm too fly not to fly
I soared further past humans without wings so I soar
and fine tickling the feathers of my wings
flying hysterically, over land numerically
I am seven mountains higher than the valley of death

Seven mountains higher than the valley of death
Seven dimensions deeper than dimensions of breath
(x12, gradually mixed out)

we're performing an exorcism on all this keep it real-
ism
violence, sensationalism
in the name of the hip hop that nurtured me, cultured
me
we are ordering all evil entities to exit this body, leave
this body
in the name of microphone fiends and a young boy's b-
boy dreams
we draw you to leave this body, leave this body
all evil entities, all wannabe emcees
decoys, decoys, send in the true b-boys
the true b-boys be men, motherfuckers
be men in the name of Scott La Rock
in the name of T-La Rock
motherfuckers don't remember how to do the reeboks
walk, hop, I told you to leave this body
leave this body, leave this body
I told you to leave this body
leave this body, leave this body
motherfuckers must think I'm crazy
shit, I think y'all motherfuckers is crazy
I want my fuckin' MTV
penny for a thought, nigga, penny for a thought
what the fuck have you bought into

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