

## Talib Kweli "Human Element"

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[Talib Kweli talking]

The other day I was walking, passing NYU on the way to meet my pops, you know, and this white boy stops me, talking

'bout, he be in the National Socialist something or other,

trying to sell me a paper and, give me some, uh, Free Mumia

pamphlets. So you know I'm in a hurry, right, and I told him,

right, and he tried to check me, like 'Have you ever even heard

of the Black Panthers, and Mumia was fighting so you could go to

college, and...' All this, and I'm like, "Dude, you don't even know

me, man. I don't even fucking go here, man. I know who the

fuck Mumia is, man. Innocent niggas get locked up every day, man.

That ain't nothing new..."

But, yo, on the other hand, you tell some brothers Mumia's on

death row, and they think he's making records with Suge Knight.

I don't know, man, I guess it just really where you at you know what I'm sayin'...Bust it.

[Talib Kweli]

Niggas on the street running like slaves

Trying to eat, yo, we averages

Twenty one years from the graves, back to baby carriages

The same hypocrites screaming pro-life and marriages

Be using religion to justify our savageness

'How bad is this?'

You and the creator need a mediator

Your priest is human

Your relationship with God is greater

The men who think they hard

Steady issuing death penalties

The people got no right to life cause they all slaves

mentally  
You turned 'Thou Shall Not Kill' into a sham of a  
commandment  
Your interpretation I cram to understand it  
Like light  
So if America is majority white  
Then the prison's 'Another Country' like James Baldwin  
Blacks and latinos all in the system  
Like it's a calling to fall in the trap  
That's why our blocks are infested with drugs and gats  
In fact, cats on death row cause the way they think is  
illegall  
One thing you can't forget when you're dealing with  
people

[Chorus 4x]

The Human Element

(scratched)

"Done some things bad, done some things good" ->

Kurupt

[Dante]

I done walked on these streets 24 revolutions  
Gon' start for play me more just from raw evolution  
Fucking up your system like P&D pollution  
Staten niggas free be in (?) institutions  
It's the term of the century  
Ohio got twenty seven penitentiaries  
And get forty four thou' for each entity  
See a nigga on the street, snatch him instantly  
Here come the infantry, they shoot to kill intentionally  
word is you could be disturbed mentally  
Police balk, but that's business officially  
What you thought, they supposed to show sympathy  
We born enemies, they sworn to get ridda me  
Protect to serve, you gotta be kidding me  
Eventually, my conscious state made 'em contemplate  
The price of freedom is your life man you compensate  
Now think that all the way through, and let me  
commentate  
And every common state be seem to dominate  
And man accomodate laws they abominate  
Through bars to combinate  
And guards to confrontate  
Souls are irrevelant  
In cells like melanin  
Judge without intelligence

Chorus 4x

[Talib Kweli]

My nigga starving in prison for bartering with ism  
You tell me which is civilization and which is barbarism  
He fell into the traps he knew was put here by the  
system  
Some people got the knowledge, but they never apply  
the wisdom  
If you ain't got it, then replicate it  
Or join the growing ranks of the ill-fated  
Slated to be publicly humiliated  
If you ain't the problem, then the solution you have to  
be  
We'll start a hoodlum intelligence agency like tragedy  
We majesty, stay focused with thought and meditation  
Deviling this Babylon with strength and dedication  
Like that, and we don't stop  
My A of life gon' remain on top  
It's the Reflection, and we got the sureshot  
And we only drop that pure hip-hop  
This goes out to freedom fighters, graffiti writers  
Innocent lifers, grassroots organizers  
This goes out to single mothers  
Soul bad brothers  
Young lovers of the revolution that solutions  
This goes out to cats raising babies  
The the ones who react, say, when the world get crazy  
Blaze one for the MOVE organization  
Ramona Africa, and those that know truth is liberation

Chorus 2x

Hi-Tek put it on 'em  
Free Mumia

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