

Talib Kweli "The Proud"

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[Talib Kweli]

The proud
Stand tall or don't stand at all, c'mon
Uhh, yeah
Break it down
What we do?

[Chorus]

We survive, it's more than pride
We stay alive, ready to ride

[Chorus] - repeat through intro

[Intro: Talib Kweli]

One two, one two yo
Aight.. put it down yo
June 21, 2001
Timothy McVeigh is executed
And the country breathe a sigh of relief
Goodness prevails over evil, it seems
Somehow when he's gone, we feel safer
Little do we know

[Verse One]

Today the paper say Timothy McVeigh's in hell
So everything's okay and all must be well
I remember Oklahoma when they put out the blaze
And put Islamic terrorist bombing, on the front page
It's like saying only gays get AIDS, propaganda
Like saying the problem's over when they locked that
man up
Wrong! It's just the beginning, the first inning
Battle for America's soul, the devil's winning
The President is Bush, the Vice President's a Dick
So a whole lot of fuckin is what we gon' get
They don't wanna raise the babies so the election is
fixed
That's why we don't be fuckin with politics
They bet on that, parents fought and got wet for that
Hosed down, bit by dogs, and got blacks into house
arrest for that
It's all good except for that - we still poor

Money, power and respect is what we kill for, for real

[Chorus] - repeat through interlude

[Interlude]

August 4, 2001

A drunken police officer mows down an entire family in
Brooklyn

The judge lets him go with no bail

It reminds us, of just how worthless our lives are to the
justice system

I struggle, to explain the situation to my son, it's hard

[Verse Two]

Niggaz with knowledge is more dangerous than than
niggaz with guns

They make the guns easy to get and try to keep niggaz
dumb

Target the gangs and graffiti with the Prop 21

I already know the deal but what the fuck do I tell my
son?

I want him livin right, livin good, respect the rules

He's five years old and he still thinkin cops is cool

How do I break the news that when he gets some size

He'll be percieved as a threat or see the fear in they
eyes

It's in they job description to terminate the threat

So 41 shots to the body is what he can expect

The precedent is set, don't matter if he follow the law

I know I'll give my son pride and make him swallow it all
(damn!)

Fuck the pigs! I think the pigs killed Big and 'Pac too

If they didn't they know who did, they got to!

Who they serve and protect, nigga not you

Cops shot off of ten G's but they got glocks too

Let you protect yourself, or better yet respect yourself

Straight into the hospital is where you gotta check
yourself

They be gettin tips from snitches and rival crews

Doin them favors so they workin for the drug dealers
too

Just business enforcers with hate in they holsters

Shoot you in the back, won't face you like a soldier

Kurt Loder asked me what I say to a dead cop's wife

Cops kill my people everyday, that's life

[Chorus] - repeat through final interlude

[Final Interlude]

September 11, 2001

Terrorists attack the Pentagon and the World Trade
Center
Kills thousand and permanently scars America's false
sense of security
We see the best examples of humanity in the face of
the worst
As fire fighters, police officers, rescue workers
and volunteers of all sorts, fight to save lives
The world will never be the same again

[Verse Three]

My heart go out to everybody at Ground Zero
Red, black, yellow, white and brown heroes
It's more complicated than black and white
To give your own life is the greatest sacrifice
But it's hard for me to walk down the block
Seeing rats and roaches, crack viles and 40 ounce
posters
People broken down from years of oppression
Become patriots when they way of life is threatened
It's a hard conversation to have
We lost kids, moms and dads, people ready to fight for
the flag
Damn, when did shit get this bad?
America kill the innocent too, the cycle of violence is
sad
Damn! Welcome to the world, we here
We've been at, war for years but it's much more clear
(yeah)
We got to face what lies ahead
Fight for our truth and freedom and, ride for the dead

[Chorus] - repeat to end

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