

Mos Def, A Tree Never Grown

"1, 2, 3, 4" 10x

[88 Keys]

Yo, this is 88...

This is for Amadou Diallo

Rest in peace, you still here

[Fre]

Yo, I'm in a brownstone singin like Brownstone

Bird's eye view wit the bodega

Know Omega like Rakim

Thinkin about brother Diallo

I find it hard to swallow

Cuz 41 is a hard act to follow

Who is it, it can happen tomorrow

Goes down all the time in some African community

This one just hit closer to home

Cuz it happen it in our backyard

This that *shit* bring us closer to home

They ask "What you writin fo'? What you writin on that paper fo'?"

Don't ask me nuttin, just tell me

How is safer got me safe, that's why my raps sour

My peoples screamin "Black power!" and la razah

From the Bronx, police bustin, it's redemption time

[J-Live]

Now in the squad car, CPR's supposed to be the motto

But in they minds, they be like "Yo, I'ma do Diallo"

I guess master's noose was a bitter pill to swallow

Cuz nowadays, tips ain't the only things that's hollow

Constitution, 41 more holes in it

And cops swingin sticks like they tryin to win the pennant

And stickin sticks places where they ashamed to admit it

But that's the straw that broke the camel's back

THEY GON' GET IT!!

[Rubix]

Possessed by a nervous twitch and itchy writin finger

41 strokes through the barrel of pen for Amadou

More than a few of my personal friends

Since the beginning, it seems like it never ends

The story, ancient as lyrical allegory and it's all gory

The Little Shop of City Hall Horrors

Who bakes infiltrate, agent, provocator mission statement

Assassinate the Senate candidate, heavenly mandate

[Chorus: Mos Def]

We proceeded on a country road

His mother's eyes withered swoll

Her child was never comin home

Said a prayer for his soul

As the coffin had closed, committed to the earth below

First seed she would sew, would be a tree never grown

Shade that was never known

Who controls the Terrordome, the member hearts made of stone

Who love only what they own

[Invincible]

Stay on your toes for a true bruise description

Match blue suits, walkin round wit a stick and *edit*

Ready to blast wit the wrath of a hollow tip

And the fact is my task is a scholarship

I feel it in my chest cavity

The only death's apathy, so I change it for who's next after me

And that's the fullest reward
Keep the face of the lost on my bulletin board

[Wordsworth]

Yo yo, it's blue uniform, sirens, names, and badge numbers
Clubs, walkie-talkies, recipies for bad summers
Frisked, pissed after I tuck in my stuff
I really think they just like touchin my *nuts*
What's real stain they thoughts
Swear, but they won't say it in court
All they do is change the report
Riots, tryin to keep the crowd under control
They even got shows, Cops, LAPD, Highway Patrol yo yo

[A.L.]

From the cradle to the grave, they made you a slave
Brainwash to kill each other, that's the plague that they made
I search em like readin scripts that could save you today
White is right, black is wrong, that's the label they gave
Fryin in hell, applyin jails, they got you dyin in cells
Triple six in the mix, Levine to ?spell?
Prepare for the worst, and try to hope for the best
I take a stare at the hearse, can we cope wit the stress?

[Kofi Taha]

I live in the land of punches
Illegal chokeholds and excessive gunshots
Where there's one millionaire for every billion empty pot
And Adolf Guily think we static but he's in for a shock
They come wit automatics but we flip it
Use the one, create the four glocks and while stocks get washed
While school doors get locked and when jobs get blocked
The confi-dence get's rock
And when the welfares drop into the jails we stock now
After Amadou wrestlin wit freedom tacks my mind into a headlock
But *fuck* H&R, I'm a true cat
Refundin power back to our Blocks

Chorus

[Tame One]

Good life, you can bubble or struggle
Use your brain muscle if you hustle
Don't let nobody touch you
Don't even trust the ones that trust you
Cuz the ones you showin love to might bust
Seekin as a cancer, my man got shot by Haitians or Jamaicans
? wit confrontations and school my mind's racin
I pride these sensations over this, now I'm hopin this
We shine for, I never got a chance to rhyme for
My role models sold bottles and stole cars
And when they got locked, I accepted all the phone calls
That's when *niggas* was real
Back before I had a deal
Back when people called Villsburg Hooterville
ILL!!!

[Jane Doe]

My mind wonders on melodic jams
An exotic bird, caged wit the rage and the violence of my words
The same things I down I turn around and do
The white cops say *Fuck you* but I say *Fuck you too!*Truth be totally hypocrites
And materialistic society, spirituality shunned or
While young kinds get gunned on

Hibernatin in projects, which you project-ing
The pigs is crucifyin but Africans is resurrectin, Jane Doe

[Grafh]

Battacky, sends cops to come and catch me
He better send a runnin back to run and track me
When I'm runnin through the back streets
The rat teeth of beast lovin to black me
Eatin brothers like a picinic color cuz that's sweet
To lock a man up in prison, the standard of livin
Thinkin they make a better bred of man
Than the man when he went in
Rub up a man for sinnin
Handcuff his hands to the system, banned from his wisdom
Wit insanity in him, his mind roams wit like a cyclone
Damagin victim, his eyes hold savage within him
Wrath wit the venom, poison his life
No ointment to boisten the might
If it's on the left, walk to the right
Until death, do your part do your life
Like a boyfriend and wife, because the day times shorter than night
You know?

Chorus

[88 Keys]

Yo, black is fragile remember that
Cherish everyday
Live life to the fullest, aight?