

Frank Zappa, You Are What You Is

Do you know what you are?
You are what you is
You is what you am
(A cow don't make ham . . .)
You ain't what you're not
So see what you got
You are what you is
An' that's all it 'tis

A foolish young man
From a middle class fam'ly
Started singin' the blues
'Cause he thought it was manly
Now he talks like the Kingfish
("Saffiiiee!")
From Amos 'n Andy
("Holy mack'l dere . . . Holy mack'l dere!")
He tells you that chitlins . . .
(Chitlins!)
Well, they taste just like candy
He thinks that he's got
De whole thang down
From the Nivea Lotion
To de Royal Crown

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(A cow don't make ham . . .)
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So see what you got
You are what you is
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A foolish young man
Of the Negro Persuasion
Devoted his life
To become a caucasian
He stopped eating pork
He stopped eating greens
He traded his dashiki
("Uhuru!")
For some Jordache Jeans
He learned to play golf
An' he got a good score
Now he says to himself
"I AIN'T NO NIGGER NO MORE . . . HEY! HEY! HEY!"
"I don't understand you . . . "
BWANA MA-COO-BAH
"Would you please speak more clearly . . . "
MERCEDES BAINNNNNNNZ

Who is who
(I don't know . . .)
'N what is what
(Somethin' I just don't know . . .)
'N why is this
(Tell me now . . .)
Appropriot
(That's a funny pronunciation if'n ever I heard one . . .)
If you don't like
(Where'd you get that word?)
What you has got
(Appropriot? The word is not . . .)

Drop it in the dirt
(Drop it yeah . . .)
'N let it rot
(I can smell it now . . .)
Someone else
(Here de come, here de come . . .)
Will surely come
(I told you they was comin')
'N pick it up
(That's right!)
'Cause he wants some
(An' he wants it for free . . .)
And when one day
(There will come a day . . .)
You wonder who
(I wonder too . . .)
You used to was
(Who I was anyway . . .)
'N what you do
(I used to work at the post office . . .)
You'll scratch your head
(But I don't wanna un-do my doo . . .)
'N look around
(Just to see what's goin' on . . .)
But what you lost
(Can't seem to find it . . .)
Will not be found
(A Mercedes Benz . . .)

Do you know what you are?
(I know . . .)
You are what you is
(I'm the kinda guy . . .)
You is what you am
(That ought to be drivin' a Mercedes Benz . . .)
A cow don't make a ham
(A four-fifty SLC . . .)
You ain't what you're not
(A big ol' red one . . .)
So see what you got
(With some golf clubs stickin' out de trunk . . .)
You are what you is
(I'm gwine down to de links on Saturday mornin' . . .)
An' that's all it is
(Gimme a five dollar bill . . .)
YOU ARE WHAT YOU IS
(And an overcoat too . . .)
AND THAT'S ALL IT IS
(Where's my waitress? Yeah . . .)
YOU ARE WHAT YOU IS
(Robbie, take me to Greek Town . . .)
AN THAT'S ALL IT IS
(I'm harder than yer husband; harder than yer husband . . .)
YOU ARE WHAT YOU IS
(I'm goin' down to White Street, to the Mudd Club y'all . . .)
AN THAT'S ALL IT IS
(I'm goin' down 'n work the wall 'n work the floor . . .)
YOU ARE WHAT YOU IS
('N work the pipe 'n work the wall . . .)
AN THAT'S ALL IT IS
(Some more . . .)