

# Talib Kweli, What's Beef?

[Talib Kweli]

Yo I was sold to a sick European by a rich African battlin'  
Middle Passages, I can't go back again  
Battlin' years of denyin' history, lies and mysteries  
Wives with misty eyes watchin' their niggas be beaten viciously  
Battle in the wilderness of North America  
Ran by the river, only stoppin' to pray  
Chased by predators  
Terrorists with etiquette who vote and kill their president  
Their capacity for evil so evident and prevalent  
Ain't no hesitation involved, a nation dissolved  
While we sit back waitin' to evolve  
Those who would trade in their freedom  
For their protection deserve neither  
Fuck a name, fuck tradition  
Religion - you learn Jesus  
Turn the other cheek  
Inherit the Earth, just stay meek  
Fuck the way you speak  
Try to walk, we chop off your feet  
Fastforward to 2003, niggas beef  
The psychology of children are slaves to run deep

[Mos Def and Talib Kweli]

Hell yeah, hell yeah, yeah yeah yeah yeah yo  
What's beef? hell yeah, yeah yeah yeah yeah yo  
That's beef, hell yeah, yeah yeah yeah yeah yo  
It's always your own peoples  
Sometimes it's your own peoples yo  
Yeah yeah, hell yeah, yeah yeah yeah yeah yo  
What's beef? hell yeah, yeah yeah yeah yeah yo  
That's beef, hell yeah, yeah yeah yeah yeah yo  
It's always your own peoples  
Sometimes it's your own peoples yo

[Mos Def]

Beef is not what Jay said to Nas  
Beef is when workin' niggas can't find jobs  
So they tryna find niggas to rob  
Tryna find bigger guns so they can finish the job  
Beef is when the crack kids can't find moms  
Cause they end up inna PINE box or locked behind bars  
Beef ain't the Summer Jam for Hot 97  
Beef is the cocaine and AIDS epidemic  
Beef don't come with a radio edit  
Beef is when the judge is callin' you "defendant"  
Beef, it comes with a long jail sentence  
Handed down to you in a few short minutes  
Beef is when your girl come through for a visit  
Talkin' bout "I'm pregnant by some other nigga"  
Beef is high blood pressure and bad credit  
Need a loan for your home and you're too broke to get it  
And all your little kids is doin is gettin' bigger  
You tryin not to raise 'em around these wild niggas  
Beef is when a gold digger got ya seed in her  
A manicured hand out like "pay me nigga"  
Or I'm tellin' your wife  
Or startin' up some foul rumor that'll ruin your life  
Beef is when a gangster ain't doin it right  
Another gangster then decided what to do with his life  
Beef is not what these famous niggas do on the mic  
Beef is what George Bush would do in a fight  
Yeah, beef is not what Ja said to 50  
Beef is more than Irv not bein here with me

When a soldier ends his life with his own gun  
Beef is tryin' to figure out what to tell his son  
Beef is oil prices and geopolitics  
Beef is Iraq, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip  
Some beef is big and some beef is small  
But what y'all call beef is not beef at all  
Beef is real life happenin' everyday  
And it's realer than them songs that you get at Kay Slay  
This has been a Black Star PSA  
From Mos Def, Pretty Flocko, black Dante  
And the Black Star embassy, B to the K