

[Background music]

[0:10]

Ignorance in power  
Is the enemy of justice  
And no longer can we stand for that which misrepresents us,  
Pressing its knee on the windpipe  
from that which the voice of a people emanates so beautifully.

Change is not what we see, but how we see it  
To make real change,  
and rearrange the structures keeping us in chains  
We must change our minds  
Through acts of love,  
We gotta be it.

Let not the deaths of those that passed be in vain  
Use all of the gifts that our ancestry claims  
To realize the dreams of those that died in the name of truth and light  
Set out to guide us on the path that was paved  
in search of freedom and justice  
And no, it's not a cop going to jail for murder

Remember 9:29

[1:07]

If I must be honest with you, in Canada they'd be like "oh there's no racism, something something".  
But they don't even understand like I'm constantly getting racially profiled like and I understand it.  
Because you walk into a store, you just want to buy something  
they're always like asking questions like you  
know when it's like creepy and they're just following you like "oh do you need help?"  
"No I don't need help thank you, I know what I'm getting"  
and they're just constantly following you like you realize that you're being targeted.

[1:32]

The black community is not a monolith.  
Everybody has their own story and their own backgrounds that they can reflect on so  
I think it's very important to acknowledge that before anything and moving forward.

[1:42]

Being cruel to people has just been normalized and I don't get that,  
I don't get how somebody can take a look at another group of people and be like "I don't like  
you just because of the way that you look".  
That's trash to me, it really is.

[1:59]

Okay police are friends?

[laughter]

There's a facade of Canadians as being these nice people,  
That we don't really have racism but our whole nation was built on the slaughtering  
of Indigenous people.  
There's a continued denial based on our systems of oppression and if we continue to deny it  
then it makes it hard for those who are oppressed to name it.

[2:25]

Being in white spaces and talking about these things,  
it has been incredibly enlightening and it's been incredibly hard.

[2:34]

Just hope that things will work out that even our children and grandchildren may have a  
better setup than we have when we came here in 1966.  
They would look at you and then psych you out before they rent you a place.

[2:57]

Been fighting a long time but the message is still the same.  
We're fighting for equality, we're fighting for an equal chance at living, achieving our dreams,  
being anything that we want.  
We're fighting for George Floyd.

[3:13]

We sat there and we watched and we held our breath, and it was tough for everybody it's a  
collective trauma and I think we're all just hoping that at some point we can release that  
breath.

[3:26]

When he got to the point where he was crying for his mother I stopped breathing, because that's what mothers do for their sons.

They stop breathing so that they can breathe.

I felt like how could the world —because it was the world— be so inhumane to somebody?

I didn't want to close my eyes that night after watching it because I felt like I was going to be seeing my son, and hearing my son.

Picked up the phone and I called my son and I said “you don't even have to say anything I just need you to just I just need to hear you breathing I just need to know that you're okay and I just need you to get home safe.”

[Music]

[4:40]

Oh my bad bro, that's weird I never get emotional like that but—

[5:01]

The most beautiful change that's happened since George Floyd's tragic murder is the conversation has been busted wide open to the point where nobody can say they didn't know anymore and so the knowledge is there if you want it and it's undeniable.

[5:19]

In terms of the privilege of being black is when you're black you were loved before you were here, so no matter where you are, no matter what country, what ethnicity, if you were black someone went through something for you to be here, and then you have that obligation to pay that forward to the next generation.

[Music]

[5:45]

What is the dopest part about being black?

Well how much time do you have?

What isn't dope about being black?

[5:53]

I don't know where to start. I love black women that's my weakness.

[5:57]

It comes to so many things. There is so much pride I have being part of black communities we are out there, and we're showing everyone that no matter what you throw at us we're gonna come back.

[6:10]

I just like being black you know, it's just like I've been black my whole life so you know like I obviously have to embrace it.

[6:16]

It's like just naturally being cool, you know?

It's the way you walk, the music you listen to, the history and I feel like black people in general are more connected to our culture regardless if you have a Caribbean background, African background.

[6:32]

Literally anything that's good, black people either made it or made it cool.

We're talking about fashion, we're talking about art, we're talking about food, we're talking about—

[6:41]

—swag and I hate that word but there's a certain energy, a certain vibe that just being black that I think comes with being this amazing skin colour that I have.

[6:50]

Man nobody makes lemonade out of lemons better than us literally that's our history.

Oxtail is fire, we make things that are amazing out of pieces of food or culture that other people discard.

So we better than anyone, take what the world gives us and makes it something so hot that the rest of the world wants it.

[7:15]

Oh man [laughing].

To me being black in 2021 means duality.

You're a master of duality, you're a master finding the joy

and the beauty in that experience and you're also a master of being tired.

[7:32]

We also are the blueprint for activism right?  
We stand at the forefront, we demand our rights from kingdom come.

[7:39]

The world feeds off our energy and to be able to be growing up in that culture immersing myself in that culture in all aspects, it's uh always giving me a liberating feeling.

[7:52]

Uh the dopest part about being black is our resilience.  
Our different shades, our hues being strong people.  
Coming from kings and queens, our legacy.

[8:04]

I'm someone that has a child of my own.  
Everything that he is seeing, what I surround him around is what his future will be.  
All those black men and women that he's surrounded with are all people that are so brilliant in what they do.  
I'm surrounded by them every day.  
Ironically enough I'm surrounded by them right now.  
So it's very incredible.

[8:28]

If you look out in the garden, you don't see one colour flowers.  
You see all different colors, flowers.  
That's a beautiful garden isn't it?  
So just as we are different colors, different nationality, different language, that's a beautiful garden the lord has created so we got to learn to live and to grow, set examples for each other and we'll get along, and you show the world that we're god's children and it doesn't matter who we are, love. The greatest of all is love.

[9:14]

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