VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

THE CULTURE
HIP HOP & CONTEMPORARY ART IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Unveiling of God / a love letter to my forefathers
GALLERY 245
The Unveiling of God / a love letter to my forefathers, 2021
single-channel video (color, sound)
duration: 20 minutes, 7 seconds, looped

Courtesy of the artists 2023. 283

The Unveiling of God Transcript

Explicit language contained in the lyrics below.

[Instrumental music "The Present Intro" by Brandon Woody]

[water bubbling, heart beats]

[Instrumental music by APoetNamedNate with birds chirping]

[Nia June reciting the poem “Birth”]

“Your birth is not new,
you have always been here.
Your name is the immortal music of all days
and every star burns with your vigor,
pride, remorseless glory.
Your light is something passed down
loudly and laid open to the sky."
There is a sanctuary inside of you, like a seed in soil, waiting to be fed, worshiped by a downpour of your love. And loving God is as easy as touching the Earth. Unveiling God is witnessing your birth.”

[“Good Vibes” by Dee Dave featuring T.Ali]

♪ Do you want to be a tricky dick? Quick and slick Do you want to be hip and sly Show enough fly Do you want to be a superstar Something that you’re not by far Do you want to be crazy Dirty and lazy

C’s up yeah I come from the hill look around all of my friends getting killed fuck a tip when you paying the bill that’s a snack and I need me a meal diesel in the blunt I call it Shaquille a few of my friends got addicted to pills never bite your tongue speak how you feel fuck practice Allen Iverson skills got my own eventually had me a deal never say never because they probably will constructed a lot from this shit I could build Niggas be cappin’ but I make ‘em kneel Real4Eva put that shit in my will
from the trenches yeah we’ve been in the field
in the club like fuck the dress code
like my bitches with a smile and less clothes♪

I. POWER

[“Tote it” by Blaqstarr]

♪ I told y’all
I tote it tote it
Put the bullet in the glock
And blewed it
Told y’all
Tote it tote it
Put the bullet in the glock
And blewed it blewed it♪

[Huey P. Newton] Anytime the Black man attempts to change the slave
image he will scare white people. So, uh, the Black Panther Party, I think
you, when you say that we scared people that means that we were
creating a positive Black image for ourselves.

[Instrumental music by APoetNamedNate]

[Nia June reciting the poem “Power”]

“Your power is not porcelain or silver plated.
But rusted by the resilience of your ancestors
and still, it is gold.
Your past is a people, a country.
But your legacy is a nation
armed with your presence,
rooted in your love,
ruled by your discipline.
Your throne has many shapes
and your kingdom will be feared.”

[“Militant Mood” by Omnia Azar]

♫ Militant Mood
But as long as he’s for the nation no I don’t mind
Yea we can get down,
we can fight our enemies, waste no time
Yes I know he’ll be ready to put in work
I’m putting in mine
We gon grow, let it show that we’re for our people
Yea, that we’re for our people

II. PROTECTOR

[vocal trumpet solo]

[Nia June reciting the poem “Protector”]

[flowing water, crickets chirping]

“Have you cried for this man today?
For all the ways he is called to protect us?
Have you seen the oceans flailing on the coast of his ancient eyes?
An ocean cemented to sand and shores.
A strong man made of desert floors
and dry skies.
His eyes are unknown to rain,
in the name of a manhood,
we could never know.”

[Instrumental music by APoetNamedNate]

[Nia June continuing the poem for “Protector”]

“My fathers will not cry. They do not bleed, will not weep. But will carve himself into a concrete fortress, a forest with fire on its tongue and at its feet. Brave but enslaved by a fear of becoming sheep. My fathers are lions who’d set themselves ablaze in the names of their people. Mothers. Sisters. Wives. Daughters. My fathers are arsenic and unmet by water but bound to riverbanks. A strength built by brick, by block. No, my fathers do not know that sometimes water is stronger than rock.”

[Instrumental music “The Present Intro” by Brandon Woody]

[Nia June reciting the poem “Freedom”]

“Our throne has many shapes and your kingdom will be feared, because you are free.”

III. FREEDOM
“His Eye Is On The Sparrow” by Black Assets & Tyler Moonlight

♩ And I know He watches,
He watches over me
And I sing because I’m happy, yeah
And I sing because I’m free, yeah
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches,
He watches over me
And I know, He watches,
And I know, He watches,
He watches over me, yeah ♩♩

IV. FOUNDATION

[Amina Baraka] And as Black women, we have to be the inspiration, for the nation, for our men. We have to start out into the community educating the children, educating ourselves. Because once we educate ourselves, the children will become educated. Because we, we are the ones that teach the children. We are the ones that decorate the homes. We are the ones that are with both female and male children.

[Nia June reciting the poem “Foundation”]

“Look at me: copper eyed, obsidian skinned,
making an altar of you.
And you
are still learning how to love me.
As I am still learning how to love you.
Without being a captive maternal,
a martyr.
I say your name in search for myself
because you are the immortal music of all days.
And I have been with yo
for all days.
I have loved you for miles across the Atlantic
and even before then
and still,
I am here,
with you.”

[“Nxggas Don’t Listen” by Zadia]

♪ Be [repeat]
Whoa [repeat]
Tea [repeat]
Uhn Uhn [repeat]
It’s me
I’m coming
To you as a woman
In a man’s world
It’s me (it’s me)
Can I keep it a hunnit (can I?)
Cause 99 (99)
and a half
Won’t do
TV motives Gin
To keep you wanting them
And people want a fan
I think I want a chance
To keep you on your plan
And give your ass a chance (one time)
Our features warrant healing
Beaten, wounded, bending
Be the better mans
I feel it in my city
Now my jits is gone
Them hearing what I’m saying
Can’t hear what I’m saying
Can you?
You hide all your pain
Then you
Feelings boil a rage in you (what)
Look look
It’s me
I’m coming
To you as a woman
In a man’s world ♪♪

V. UNVEILED

[Instrumental music “The Present Outro” by Brandon Woody and Troy Long]