

## Back When

Nas

The ill reminisce and think about the fly days  
Nothing like them 80s summer N.Y. days  
Hop on the NB5 days  
Mopeds, Pro Keds, city split five ways  
How it all started, fifth floor apartment  
A jigsaw puzzle aerial view of the projects  
A kid saw struggle, buried a few of his partners  
Now chill in resorts, enjoying massages  
Check out the oracle bred from city housing  
Nas, I'll rise the deads by thousands  
I remember seeing Shan chilling near his Audi  
Hollis Ave. running them, but I probably  
Put a poster up of Shan and Marley, that was art, kid  
You love to hear the story how it started  
The bubbly I'm pouring wasn't popped yet  
Before there was a audience to watch us  
I assure you, there was a process

"You love to hear the story, how it all got started"  
How it all got started, yeah  
"You love to hear the story, how it all got started"  
How it, how all got started  
"You love to hear the story how it all got started"  
Hear the story, how it all started off  
Started off, started off, started off  
How it all got started  
"Back when, back when, back when, back when  
Back when, back when, back when, back when"

To call them fake today is hate, real niggas extinct  
Pac left me inside a rap world with niggas that's weak  
And other rappers, undercover niggas spit every way  
Won't be surprised if all their rides have federal plates  
Let alone their wardrobes are Studio 4 flow  
It was real when I appeared, it would've been some jaws broke  
Nas, my real name, stage name, same thing  
How could you let these claim king? I'm so ashamed, man  
I light a L for Vernon, for niggas who would burn in Hell  
For Vernon; 10th Street, 12th Street, Nightmare on Elm Street  
Pimps creep, delve deep inside the editorials  
Of the ghetto queens, kings, stories true  
Who possesses the testicular fortitude  
To blow away myths that's a hindrance to all of you?  
You blame your own shortcomings on section, race  
The mafia, homosexuals and all the Jews  
It's hogwash point of views, stereotypical  
Anti-Semitic like the foul words Gibson spewed  
And it's pathetic,  
I don't get the credit I deserve  
That's why I hate doing interviews  
But I don't sweat it, study long, study raw  
My man Deon said "Nas over-think the songs he writing"  
I'm not a wack performer standing behind a corny hype man  
I got the Donism  
I'm here to enlighten

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