

1987

Saul Williams

Acid-wash Guess with the leather patches  
Sportin' the white Diadoras with the hoodie that matches  
I'm wearing two Swatches and a small Gucci pouch  
I could have worn the Louis, but I left it in the house  
Now, my niggas Duce and Wayne got gold plates with their name  
With the skyline on it, with the box link chain  
I'm wearing my frames, they match my gear with their tint  
And you know Lagerfeld is the scent  
Now, my nigga Rafael just got his jeep out the shop  
Mint green sidekick, custom-made ragtop  
"Strictly Business" is the album that we play  
"You're A Customer" the pick of the day  
Now there's a nigga on the block, never seen him before  
Selling incense and oil, my man think that he's the law  
But why on earth would this be on their agenda?  
As he slowly approaches the window  
"Uh, uh, I've seen you before, I've been you and more  
I was the one bearing the pitcher of water  
I rent the large upper room furnished with tidings of your doom or pleasure  
Whichever feathers decree"  
Yo, Ralph is he talking to me?  
"No, I'm talking to the sea son's resurrected  
I'm the solstice of the day  
I bring news from the blues of the Caspian"  
My man laughs, he's one them crazy motherfuckers  
Turn the music back up 'cause I'm the E-Double  
"Wait but, but, but, but I know the volume of the sea  
And sound waves as I will  
Will you allow me to be at your service?"  
My man Ralph is nervous  
He believes his strange tongue deceives  
And maybe he's been informed  
That he's pushing gats hidden in the back, beneath the floor mats  
Come on Jack, we don't have time for your bullshit or playin'  
A'salaam a somethin' or another  
"Wait isn't Juanita your mother?  
I told you I know you  
Now grant me a moment"

At the gates of Atlantis we stand  
Ours is the blood that flowed from the palms of his hands  
On the plow till earth, 'til I'm now  
Moon cycles revisited, womb fruit of the sun  
Full moon of occasions wave the wolves where they run  
And we run towards the light casting love on the winds  
As is the science of the aroma of sleeping women  
Lost in his eyes they soon reflect my friends are grinning  
But I'm a pupil of his sight, the wheels are spinning  
Yo, I'll see ya'll later on tonight  
In the beginning her tears were the long awaited rains  
Of a parched Somali village  
Red dusted children danced shadows  
In the newfound mounds of mascara that eclipsed her face  
Reflected in the smogged glass of Carlos' east street bodega  
Learning to love, she had forgotten to cry  
Seldom hearing the distant thunder in her lovers' ambivalent sighs  
He was not honest

She was not sure  
A great grandmother had sacrificed the family's clarity for God in the late  
1800's  
Nonetheless, she had allowed him to mispronounce her name  
Which had eventually led to her misinterpreting her own dreams  
And later doubting them, but the night was young  
She, the firstborn daughter of water faced darkness and smiled  
Took mystery as her lover and raised light as her child  
Man, that shit was wild, you should have seen how they ran  
She woke up in an alley with a gun in her hand  
Tupac in lotus form, Ennis' blood on his hands  
She woke up on a vessel, the land behind her  
The sun within her, water beneath her  
Mushed corn for dinner or was it breakfast?  
Her stomach turned as if a compass  
She prayed east and lay there breathless  
They threw her overboard for dead  
She swam silently and fled  
Into the blue sea  
La sol fa mi re do, si  
The seventh octave  
I don't mean to confuse you  
Many of us have been taught to sing, and so we practice scales  
Many of us were born singing, and thus were born with scales  
Mhyrr-Maids, cooks, and fieldhands sang a nightsong by the forest  
And the ocean was the chorus in Atlantis where they sang  
Those thrown overboard had overheard  
The mystery of the undertow  
And understood that down below  
There would be no more chains  
They surrendered breath and name  
And survived countless as rain  
I'm the weather man  
The clouds say, storm is coming  
A white buffalo was born  
Already running  
And if you listen very close  
You'll hear a humming  
Beneath the surface of our purpose  
Lies rumors of ancient man  
Dressed in cloud face minstrels in the sky  
The moon's my mammy  
The storm holds my eye  
Dressed in westerlies  
Robed by Robeson  
Ol' man river knows my name  
And the reason you were born  
Is the reason that I came

Then she looks me in the face and her eyes get weak  
Pulse rate descends, heart's rate increase  
Emcees look me in the face and their eyes get weak  
Pulse rates descends, heart's rate increase  
Emcees look me in the face and their eyes get weak  
Pulse rates descends, heart's rate increase  
It's like "beam me up, Scottie", I control your body  
I'm as deadly as AIDS when it's time to rock a party  
We all rocked fades, fresh faded in ladidadi  
And when we rock the mic we rock the mic  
And when we rock the mic we rock the mic  
And when we rock the mic we rock the mic  
But left the feminine side  
Ignore the feminine side

Left the feminine side  
Ignore the feminine side  
Left the feminine side  
Ignore the feminine side  
Left the feminine side

I presented my feminine side with flowers  
She cut the stems and placed them gently down my throat  
And these tulips might soon eclipse your brightest hopes