

## Charms

Billy Woods

Tumble out the ether, my blank verse  
Wild jungle out the speaker, rare earths  
Every rebbe wonder, will his golem work?  
Every golem wonder if they was the first  
Lurch, cursed  
Shots was close together like the gun burst  
Optimistic as a prostitute's wishlist  
Kids are alright, what he told the missus  
Baby in the reeds, keep him from the 'gyptians  
If she never has a seed, they gon' be s'picious  
Rumours, wishes, bad blow pursed lip rape kisses  
Turn and spit, note the sun distance  
Won't be long now, if they comin' come get it  
If you comin' come get it  
Eve had a sister, who knows what he did with her  
Big picture, frame was five figures  
Soul suspended in silver, invoice A. Richter  
Ay, Nigga  
I was given this world, I didn't make it  
This a crazy place  
Babyface with the shiner to match the charm bracelet  
Pacin', upstate bus station  
Baby fat, but it's babies the wolves take in

I'm not the first to believe in this hypocrisy  
[?] believe in this hypocrisy

Circles lined with stones of a questionable origin  
Wanted affirmations over harvested smudge stick fragrances  
Instruments of faith, seekin' silence and comfort  
Delusional hunter on a path toward agency  
Bunkered, hella unwavering  
Takin' to the skies, celestial bodies that the wise men follow  
Stopped makin' sense when chaos rang hollow  
Imagination lack work, prosperity model  
Out of mystery, a divine spark  
Some are drawn, some are marked  
Stark phenomenon, faith starts when shit stops addin' up  
Charge it to the game, plus tax just when you had enough  
In this body, spirit mover, clear the passage  
Why be shackled by the past tense  
Dry bones of the Nag Hammadi  
From the dust, reanimated and birthed anew  
From the rib, there were two  
We speak abundance, seekin' oneness (Believe in this hypocrisy)

I have to tell you guys, I need to, to, perhaps talk a little more about survival. Because, when I say that, I have heard people say, "Oh, but I'm not content to survive." Because... and implicit in that response, is a certain denigration of what survival is. That is to say, they reduce survival to a mere existence. And that is not survival. None of us are going to move the Earth one millimeter from its axis. B

ut, if we do what we need to be doing, then we will leave something that continues beyond ourselves, and that is survival