

Remorseless

Billy Woods

Burnt offering in the desert
Shining city up on the hill, I burned it like Nebuchadnezzar
This world, hard to even take its measure
Three rooms filled with Incan treasure
Still strangled the king 'cause it's now or never
It's a freedom in admitting it's not gonna get better
Washing your hands of people you known forever
I'd be a liar if I feign surprise, a goat eats where it's tethe
red
Treat African proverbs like Vegas flyers, I float above the pea
sants
Too clever by half, halftime down twenty
I'm not that good at math, but common sense, I got plenty
(It's fuckin' over)
In person, these rappers' watches look temptin'
The chain say envy, but PTSD keep me countin', never spendin'
My accountant is a head full of bad memories and sad endings
It's all payment pending
I'm not concerned with generational wealth, that's its own curs
e
Anything you want on this cursed Earth
Probably better off gettin' it yourself, see what it's worth

The photograph of young Tutankhamun
Spaghetti links tangled like ramen
Everything behind the mask rotten
I tell people I keep it so you not forgotten, but that's cap
I thought pillars of salt, but she too smart for lookin' back
Mid-eighties in the rear-view of a gold Mercedes
Midday sun make the crocodiles lazy
Money phone pocket dial, run come save me
Sweet old ladies poisoning pigeons in the park
For a lark, make mine strychnine, life is a zipline in the dark
Spare me the Hallmark Karl Marx
I was in the Dollar Tree break-room playin' cards with quarters
Stop loss posters on the wall, brick and mortar
I watched the planet from orbit, remorseless

In pursuance of which, I hereby decree... that this decree here
by abrogates decree number forty-seven, decree number one hundr
ed and one, decrees numbers two hundred and eighty three to thr
ee hundred and sixteen inclusive
(All these decrees are herewith abrogated and in their place, t
he following decrees shall come into immediate effect. For it i
s our duty to extirpate such traitors and agents of subversion.
.. neocolonialism. Termites, locusts, pests and poisonous roden
ts...)
(It is therefore decreed, that as a warning to all other enemie

s of state...)

(... these recent saboteurs shall be publicly hanged)

Cut it, cut it off. Has no one here [?]. Cut it

Kabiyesi

Come back here, you!

(Which, taken together with decree number two hundred and nine,
three hundred and thirty three and decree number)