

Deep Cuts

Brother Ali

LA ILAHA IL ALLAH
MUHAMMAD AR RASULULLAH
HABEEBULLAH
YA WADUD

I promise you it's always love between us
Even if those are the ones that cut the deepest

Speaking in earworms until my court feels adjourned
We whirlwind around the compass, let the needle turn
My north star, my own heart, my key concern
That's the truth I need to learn, confirm, and reaffirm
Water the seeds of my spirit that my ego burned
Peeking at the wishing well, trying to sneak a turn

I speak in terms of the universal, timeless
May these lines remind of the real ties that bind us—
The feelings that lie underneath the disguises
The brilliance that dies in the secrets and silence
I'm fearless; I dive in it, bask in the plunge
And come back speaking in tongues over Anthony's drums
I casted shadow on sun, touched the past just for fun
Caught an echo of an audience we massacred once
But my back's not strapped with a grudge—
The anguish doesn't live forever, but the gratitude does

And so it's always love between us
Even if those are the ones that cut the deepest

Forgive me if I disengage—
Any venom that I spit when I was in a rage
Simply trying to flip a page to a different stage
Trying to fit inside a living space I didn't create
Any castle can become a cage
If your name isn't on the real estate
It can get strange trying to grow into your realest state
You get loud and just complain, or quietly feel away
Or try to renovate, and if not, just escape

It isn't hate to simply want room
Can't spread your wings inside a cocoon
Bust out the womb, even if you couldn't be you without 'em—
Sometimes you couldn't become the next you around 'em
But love doesn't disintegrate
It doesn't mean that it was fake if it switches shape
The Creator is the Eternal, Everlasting
Every other last thing in existence change

But it's always love between us
Even if those are the ones that cut the deepest
A-N-T, you're a fucking genius

Ooh, on and on and on and on
Like hot butter on—say what?—the popcorn