

## Association

Nas

You are who you associate with  
Look around at your five closest friends  
And that's who you are  
If you don't want to be that person  
You know what you gotta do

Association breeds similarity  
That's why I'ma stay with real rich niggas  
'Til six niggas carry me  
Poverty's a mind state  
Time waits for no man, but no man  
Wants to die a poor man with no plan

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You can try to kill me, but I come back  
Hate me, that's a small thing  
Demons let the sword swing and sever off my offspring  
Bitches try to see me down, hugging the floor  
Bullets pulling me, playing tug of war  
With my body, gravity got me  
Police want me arrested, just to see me naked  
Snakes want my necklace, fake niggas make me set-trip  
Thugs shooting reckless (every night, niggas)  
Wonder, how will I exit (from this life, niggas?)  
Think you a killer, get cement shoes in the river  
You should watch them people with you  
Let them street rules hit you  
If you hang around snitches, you get judged for that  
'Cause you condone it, you know there ain't no love for that  
There's slugs for that  
Oh, you didn't know your man was talking?  
That's why you stand with him, 'til you both land in the coffin  
When you first heard he was snitching, then you should have thought  
Every time this nigga got caught selling, they let him walk  
Early on a nigga was taught, stay away from them niggas  
So a nigga like Nas got nothing to say to them niggas  
I fuck with, only the trusted thug clique  
Who really done shit, run up in your bitch, bust the gun quick

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Some bitches lie a lot, they could be fly or not  
Actresses cry a lot, their girlfriends spy a lot  
They can shake your hand, girl  
Then they take your man, girl  
The whole hood knowing  
We got something good going  
None of these hoes is after me  
'Til they saw us happy and that you bagged me  
Now they wishing that they had me  
So watch who you hang with, and who you cling with  
You know these bitches ain't shit, they hoping to bank chips  
(With a baller) after she done gave him some head  
(He never called her) he gang it and he left her for dead  
Birds of a feather fly together  
But chickens don't fly, they eat their own shit and die  
And you affiliated, now you look weak  
'Cause your peeps is freaks  
Credit card stealing hoes, well known in the streets  
And they brought your down in the dirt  
You was a pretty, young, smart thing  
Going to work, I bet it hurt  
'Cause you had a clean rep  
But the girls you seen with make these niggas say  
"I bet that bitch suck a mean dick", word

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A warrior walk alone, there's one spot on this throne  
Fake friends be off and on, but a man stand up on his own  
I'm raised by a different code, cut from a different cloth  
Never been a follower, my momma told me be a boss  
Watch who you hang around, don't let nobody bring you down  
Friends come and go like seasons, leaves turn to brown  
And some only come around when everything is green  
Be careful not to let a snake infiltrate your team  
For every Jesus there's a Judas, every Caesar there's a Brutus  
If somebody tell you jump off a bridge - are you gon' do it?  
There's two types of influence: either healthy or deadly  
Keep your circle small, away from all the hate and the envy  
Don't come nowhere near me with it, I'm bullshit intolerant  
My politics boss up, for you black empowerment  
I stay in my element, Braveheart intelligent  
Only associate with those for my betterment  
I'm out for dead presidents to represent mines  
Only click with my kind, my best friend is my grind  
Everybody got big dreams, but few follow through  
And it's deep: the company you keep become apart of you  
Don't just be sitting around smoking weed, letting time fly  
If your homies don't inspire you to rise, tell 'em bye

You're better off dolo than rolling with a weak ass crew  
I'm like Scarface: Who I trust? - Me, that's who

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