

*thank you for the content*



*reggie johnson*

# THANK YOU FOR THE CONTENT II



r . d . j o h n s o n

**REGGIE JOHNSON**

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**PRELUDE**

Three months into the year  
And I think we can see a light  
At the end of the tunnel vision we had in 2020  
The descent we were forced to climb ourselves back up  
Into normalcy  
This wasn't a pipedream  
Last year happened  
And the effects will be lasting  
But one thing I was able to do was persevere  
It was a full 365 since this world did five less  
Never had I ever felt so much stress  
At times, it felt like I had so many things compressed  
That it felt like my heart sometimes wanted to jump out of my chest  
But I digress  
Current state of mind shows hope  
Something that couldn't be seen months ago  
Months have went by and variations of this virus have come to grow  
Learning how a pandemic  
Evolved into an endemic  
It's funny how things changed so quick  
The atmosphere in the air  
Has been quiet  
Does this signify peace?  
A country slowly getting back to normal  
The tension starting to ease  
I just pray to God that He keep my friends and family safe and healthy  
And to let this vaccine rest my soul, please let it  
I just want this 365 to not turn into a 730  
Keeping positive thoughts  
No need for me to worry

**UNPREPARED**

Whiskey and coke  
My liquor of choice  
The indulgence amplifies my voice  
We have been hung up in the house  
Medicining our forms of hangover  
Sunglasses and Advil steady giving us cold shoulders  
Pfizer and Moderna becoming available  
Some people getting cold feet  
Supply me with a vaccine that will keep my heart on beat  
As of late, it seems instead of counting memories  
It's like they want me to count white blood cells  
Quarantine spotted me fifteen  
Pounds and off the wagon I fell  
Life slowly picking itself back up  
Like we're the kid that dropped our books  
We've been getting schooled on how unprepared we were  
And it left us all shook

**YOU TELLING ME**

You telling me...  
January 6, 2021  
Several Americans chose violence today  
Six days into the new year  
Throw every damn resolution out the window  
Outside of closing the gap of this divisive country  
You telling me we really prestiged 2020  
Because when the people at the call of duty  
Watched and witnessed individuals storm a political building  
Like a game of HQ was won without even a killstreak  
Yet this is not without saying a woman was shot and killed today due  
to these events  
You telling me that we have people in this world that really think  
If this was a different group of individuals  
We would witness a very different outcome  
District 12?  
No but we're living in games that Katniss would be well equipped to  
survive  
Because right now we not  
You telling me 6 months ago, I wrote a piece depicting of these  
events  
And now we're continuing to see the story unfold  
This man has two weeks left in office  
But cancel this damn series early and remove him just like they took  
the show off Netflix  
Fucking tired  
There's no more seeing the world in two views  
The picture is clear as fucking day  
We have a bunch of Jokers living in this Gotham world  
Who are no more than the two cards in the deck  
Wildly playing their cards they dealt  
And I'm a call a spade a spade  
Big Jokers, little jokers  
All of them of the same at this point  
You telling me people in this world woke up and really chose violence  
I just hope the majority choose change

## ANGELS

Angels watch over me  
And don't let the devil get up under me  
A lot of evil planning they six feet so they can put me under see  
Six feet has become the socially acceptable distance  
I have people farther away taken from me in an instance  
Thinking about the circumstances got me withdrawing my defenses  
See the pain through my lenses  
Lather all my feelings, watch it repeat as it rinses

I got angels over me  
Waiting to give my wings  
I still gotta do a few more things  
Reach a few more dreams  
Right now things don't look like what it seems  
Feel like we're in a balancing act  
Keeping it together on the beams  
Right now the world is holding it together  
But trying to bust at the seams

I got angels over me  
Watching over ensure I'm blessed  
Diminishing my stress  
Monitoring my success  
Always hungry for more  
Never settling for less  
Angels watching over me  
Since they were taken from me too soon  
I wish I could sit and chat with them all  
In the same room  
Wish I could see my cousin one more time  
Call me RJ one, my favorite nickname of mine  
Wish I could visit my grandpa like I used to  
I hope you proud of me for the things I did do  
Wish I was I can see my uncle now  
And create my own stories  
I want all of them to say in unison to me not to worry  
Tell me this world is a scary place at times and that things will get better  
And that they'll be with me all the way no matter the storm to weather



**DR. KING'S DREAM**

If Martin Luther King's dream became reality  
    Ope there goes gravity  
    Or whatever Eminem said  
    People would lose themselves  
    Over the realization  
That this is not the equality that he spoke of all these years ago  
    This currently is not the peace he spoke of  
People would rather take a piece of justice into their own hands  
    rather than make peace  
Because between their two fingers is all the peace some need  
Versus putting an index and middle finger up any day to actually  
    stand for peace  
    If Dr King's dream became a reality  
    We could stop living in this nightmare  
Maybe the majority could be woke like some of us  
    To the point that they really open their eyes  
See their actions over years have led to this demise  
    As it come to no surprise  
In order for one side to win over the other  
    There must be an eye on the prize  
And look at the fucking trophy they want  
    A country in shambles  
    If Dr. King's dream became a reality  
Then none of this strife would currently be happening

**FEBRUARY 1ST**

If you think that February 1st  
Is just a recognition of my melanin  
Then you would be the first to be mistaken  
This is not meant to awaken  
Unnerving thoughts but to serve as a reminder  
That if last year was any indicator  
That Black Lives Have. Will. And Always. Matter  
Time has shown only distorted views  
Where you see only pigments of achievements  
Because the rest of light is darkened by bloodshed and destruction  
We have fought so many years just to have a seat at the table  
Look these people in the eye  
And tell them I have something to say  
My voice matters  
My being matters  
My representation matters  
I am more than entertainment  
I am more than your fool  
I am more than your jester  
I am more  
Countless movements  
And we're keep walking until we stampede over the divide and  
minimize the cracks in society  
Mother earth's backbone is aching from the humans stepping on us  
We're not roaches  
We're not pesticides  
You're going to sit and listen to my inner voice  
As it resides in the emotions of these lines  
I will tell you this  
Black isn't history  
History is Black  
And when we can see the distinction  
Maybe both sides can finally relax

**THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE**

This is what it feels like  
You can't even see a pigment  
You may think you have an idea  
But I can't imagine it's a figment  
To equate the hardships we've faced  
Is so damn ignorant  
That I count more people we lost under the damn cement  
6 feet under, 6 feet apart  
6 degrees of separation  
to this day we're experiencing new forms of reparation  
My one task is extend this proclamation  
That I will never take my foot off the gas  
That's my dedication  
The hustle continues  
Ink never dries up  
Keep applying the pressure  
But in the end I'm a rise up  
Pinocchios got their noses in my business  
Count your lies up  
I'll have you at a loss for words  
And tell you to wise up

I do this here for free  
I do this writing right here for my community  
I'm not doing this for you  
I'm doing this here for me  
I'm doing this every kid in the world that look like me  
I say you can be whatever in the world  
Don't let nobody stop you  
People might balloon you up  
Just don't let em pop you  
Just remember one thing in life  
God got you

## DO WHAT YOU LOVE

You would think everyone  
In competition with themselves  
Because worrying about the next man  
Would be bad for your health  
We got one life here  
No continues or quarters  
Don't get to overthinking things  
Minds have been in close quarters  
Worrying about loose change  
When you should be enjoying the growth  
Stop picking one or the other  
And get you someone that can do both  
Came from a rare breed  
O, I'm positive I'm cut from a different bleed  
Since I'm giving you all those words  
And giving these perspectives  
Supplying you food for thought  
Have you come back for seconds  
Funny how something can change  
In a matter of seconds

Started with a journal on a long drive  
But really the pen had me set sail like a boat ride  
My voice multiplied and we can witness the pain inside  
Just think if you could really see how tied  
I mean tired, but the ink still spills  
My writing meant to inspire  
To do what you love  
Do what your heart desires  
I'm a water sign  
But sometimes, I like to bring the fire  
Just know I'll bring my pen  
When situations are dire

## MISUNDERSTOOD

Misunderstood  
An interesting concept  
On a mission of bettering myself  
While completing all these side quests  
Counting up all of these trophies  
What a system measuring my success  
It's like someone playing my life on a PS5  
When the game ain't even out yet

It's like they created my character for me  
Someone choosing who they want me to be  
But no one's doing that, I'm doing me  
Perfectly set on being an anomaly  
I'm a beat the system  
There's no one out there that's gonna do it for me

They wanted me to play sports  
But I played the game  
Top 10% in my class  
Began to make a name  
Or they saw my reign  
Of a king, a future heir to a throne  
At times, the roads traveled  
I walked alone  
There was some cold moments I felt in my bones  
Ghosts of the pasts want to haunt me  
But I'll leave my grievances on they tombstone

Misunderstood  
I am more than my skin  
I am more than what you think of me  
And I won't let you win  
And in a sport set up for us to lose  
Where most only seem to tie  
As long as we don't have a winning record  
They don't care how we get by  
But I'm going to add to that winning column  
Before I grow my wings and fly  
And you not gonna take that away from me  
No I won't tell a lie

Misunderstood  
You only see  
Pieces that fit your view of me  
Life of a jigsaw  
What you saw I can't agree  
With your current idea of me

**MELANIN**

You love the look of my melanin  
But might not like the skin I'm in  
And to think love and like are synonyms  
Some look at my blackness as sickness  
An antigen  
Snakes around me like symbiotes  
Just want to let the venom in  
Poison other's judgments  
And let cruel thoughts sink in

Can't take away my skin color  
I'm not gonna sit down and roll over  
Not gonna come on over to your point of view  
This ain't political red rover  
Red rover  
Sadly they still gonna act the same if I get pulled over  
They may say I fit the description  
Incorrectly lead to my conviction  
And if I don't concede to submission  
There could be lethal consequences  
That contribute to the division  
And it's sad  
No wonder why we're mad  
We been dealing with this for years  
And you think my melanin is still a fad  
It takes fifteen seconds to use our culture to change a life  
And it takes less than that whenever they decided take our life  
You may love me for my melanin  
But not like the skin I'm in  
Damn, the world we living in

## **UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

**(BY BRUCE LLANO & REGGIE JOHNSON)**

Smoke is less than a vice  
See it's more like what covers the eyes.  
Living in a veil  
A constant state of dissociative hell  
See the mind makes mistakes  
But seeing smoke reminds me the fire is real  
Conceal, don't feel  
Thinking like this, I won't heal  
And the joke of it all?  
I really think smoke and a mirror are what'll save me from the fall  
-Bruce Llano

Liquor carries the tide without warning  
Some think they can ride the wave  
Until they realized how submerged they become once it crashes  
Feeling the rush through my bones  
My blood is surfing through the stream  
As the alcohol permeates the buoys that guard my skin  
Hopefully I don't drown  
Whatever happens, I kinda like the feeling  
-Reggie Johnson



**WHAT'S NEXT**

I'm taking my time today  
More than 60 seconds  
It's time to play  
Removing the L's  
It's time to pay  
Collecting what's mine  
Yeah it's time to pay  
If your clock and calendar don't match  
No I'm not giving you the time of the day  
I'm a sit back and it's time to pray  
That's all I'm a say

Scratch that  
two months into the year  
been afraid of a relapse  
You been bold backspacing on promises  
And I see it's really been ALL CAPS  
World will be forever in debt  
And you want us to just fucking accept  
Some people not getting a stimmy  
But lube and a jimmy  
And we supposed to have some fucking respect

Only Aretha right now is Franklin's  
Mindset on Snowfall, trying to be saint  
Don't know how to thank him  
Going 30 for 30  
Guarding the paint  
No time for complaints  
Poetry Curry  
Vision so clear  
No never blurry  
You never go punk me  
I'll never scurry  
This is just the beginning  
No need to worry

We'll see what's about to happen  
Okay?

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BECAUSE THE INK NEVER DRIES UP

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