

**Survival of the Fittest**

We livin' this 'til the day that we die  
Survival of the fit, only the strong survive

There's a war goin' on outside no man is safe from  
You can run but you can't hide forever  
If you come to my block, you'll see some territoriality  
A place where kill or be killed is the mentality  
But get it straight, it's just a necessary strategy  
You gotta play the hand you're dealt; you can't magically  
Escape from the habitat that you was born in  
Three homicides in my neighbourhood this mornin'  
Cops came and kicked the crooked door in, with no warnin'  
And started roughin' up my young cousin  
She's only seventeen and got a bun in the oven  
Plus a concussion, but she ain't done nothin'  
So keep your mouth shut and don't jump to judgment  
On the lives we're livin' – just close your eyes and listen  
While I break down some homicide statistics  
If you're thinkin' the criminal mind is just vacant  
You're mistaken, this is calculated risk takin'  
We're livin' in a situation with a low  
Life-expectancy, and a major discrepancy  
Between the haves and have-nots, and you wonder  
Why the padlock on every cash box is smashed off  
C'mon, you can't call it "pathological"  
Naw, that's illogical; you can try to understand it  
But you can't stop it though, not unless you address  
The root causes, the conscious and unconscious  
Decisions to discount future prospects  
C'mon, it's obvious – the beat keeps bouncing  
The homicide rate keeps mounting, which leads  
To steep discounting, and a lot of violence  
But it's not a virus; it's a rational response  
To high risk environments and short time horizons  
With high stakes and highly visible prizes  
And you wonder why we're criminal-minded  
Hey, you can't say we'll get satisfaction if we're patient  
With self-control and delayed gratification  
When the only job that pays is casket-makin'  
And death is the ultimate plan cancellation  
So check the facts and recent data releasin'  
You'll see a pattern of increasin' competition  
A bunch of young guys all stugglin' and status seekin'  
And causin' the crimes that make the social fabric weaken

And life expectancy also predicts teen pregnancy  
The need to leave a legacy genetically  
Will never be completely controlled contraceptively  
Yeah, that's transparent – imagine if your kids  
Would never meet their grandparents, unless you followed  
The Bristol Palen plan for parenthood  
And then they say, “Ooh, these young girls are so damn careless  
Getting’ pregnant before marriage; it’s such a tragedy”  
Apparently it’s also a reproductive strategy,  
Especially when you can see them adjusting actively  
When their circumstances change; in both the cases  
Of the young ladies with babies and the male risk-takers  
You see people adapting to their situations  
And it’s the same in different places and with different races  
This is not about ethical justifications  
It’s evolutionary psych, and it’s just the basics  
And still people call this behaviour “maladaptive”  
Because of our reaction when violence happens  
But if we really want to change the outcome  
Then maybe we should just start questioning *how* it’s adaptive  
And the bottom line is that inequity and life  
Expectancy are the ultimate causes of crime  
*And* the results of crime; to me that’s true  
The two combine together in a feedback loop  
But I got some moves to make, so I’ll be back soon  
Just don’t ask me what I’m about to do  
‘Cause I can’t say, so it’s left to untold fact  
Until my death, my ghost will stay alive  
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