I Am Not My Hair

Ameritz Tribute Club

See, I can kinda recall a lil' ways back Small, tryin' to ball, always been black And my hair, I tried it all I even went flat Had a lumpy curly top and all that crap, now Just tryin' to be appreciated Nappy headed brothers never had no ladies And I hit the barber shop real quick Had 'em give me lil' twist and it drove 'em crazy (crazy) Then I couldn't get no job 'Cause corporate wouldn't hire no dreadlocks Then I thought about my dogs from the block Kinda understand why they chose to steal and rob Was it the hair that got me this far All these girls these cribs these cars? I hate to say it but it seem so flawed 'Cause success didn't come till I cut it all off

Little girl with the press and curl Age eight, I got a Jheri curl Thirteen, and I got a relaxer I was a source of so much laughter At fifteen when it all broke off Eighteen and went all natural February, 2002 I went on and did what I had to do Because it was time to change my life To become the woman that I am inside Ninety-seven dreadlocks all gone I looked in the mirror for the first time and saw that

Hey (hey)

I am not my hair I am not this skin I am not your expectations, no (hey) I am not my hair I am not this skin I am the soul that lives within

Good hair means curls and waves (no)

Bad hair means you look like a slave (no) At the turn of the century It's time for us to redefine who we be You can shave it off like a South African beauty Or get in on lock like Bob Marley You can rock it straight like Oprah Winfrey If it's not what's on your head, it's what's underneath, and say

> Hey (hey) I am not my hair I am not this skin I am not your expectations, no (hey) I am not my hair I am not this skin I am the soul that lives within

Who cares if you don't like that? With nothin' to lose, postin' with the wave cap And the cops wanna harass 'cause I got waves Ain't see nothin' like that in all my days Man, you gotta change all these feelings Steady judging one another by their appearance Yes, India, I feel ya, girl Now go ahead, talk to the rest of the world 'cause

(Whoa, whoa, whoa) Does the way I wear my hair make me a better person? (Whoa, whoa, whoa) Does the way I wear my hair make me a better friend? Oh (Whoa, whoa, whoa) Does the way I wear my hair determine my integrity? (Whoa, whoa, whoa) I am expressing my creativity (Whoa, whoa, whoa)

> Breast cancer and chemotherapy Took away her crownin' glory She promised God if she was to survive She would enjoy every day of her life, oh On national television Her diamond eyes are sparkling Bald-headed like a full moon shining Singing out to the whole wide world like, hey

> > Hey (hey)

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