



BENJAMIN FRO [NETHERLANDS]

I heard the future is only a generation away
And they'll be facing the same problems we're facing today
If we don't come up with a plan for transformation and say
Annihilation is near if we don't awaken today
But what I see is a violent nation in hibernation
Denying traces of violence that we see on display
Within contemporary discourse, we miss forceful arguments
That never had a voice behind the doors of our parliament
We might have representation, don't mistake it for change
For it is not a correction of the mistakes that we've made
It is not a complexion that will be saving the day
If we don't recognize the systems that have made it this way
If we don't restore the riches that were taken away
If we still ignore the people that are trying to say
That the books that tell our history are trying to save
Faces, pale ones, male ones, Europeans
We buy the tale and bite the tail of the history we believe in
And we'll stand there in awe of the mystery we're seeing
And fail to recognize it's only history repeating

We're too proud, we got our heads stuck in the cloud
Talking about something we know nothing about
The lack of our knowledge resembles a drought
That we will face if we hesitate to figure it out

'Cause we pass around bills that get mistaken for change
That are just a variation on the same refrain
Just an adaptation of the play that we made
You can read about history in the paper today

'Cause I heard history is only a generation away
And it'll be written by the kids we're educating today
And all they see will be the pictures that we put on display
Pictures of the revolution on the instant replay
Is it a story of progress or of constant decay
Is resolution just a hard conversation away?
Is our fear of confrontation the reason we patiently wait?
Is a fruitful train of thought still a station away
Are we on the right track facing frustrating delays
If history is only written by colonizers
That means half of our story is told by ghostwriters
So it may appear we're choking on smoke with no fires
And those that bring water are told they're polarizers

I heard the future is only a generation away
And if we don't want them to face what we're facing today
Then we really have to make a transformational change
'Cause we can't count on our children to correct our mistakes
If we don't correct the ones our ancestors made
'Cause on the shoulders of the giants that we stand today
On the backs of the oppressed is where the boulder is placed
And the silence tells the story that cannot be erased
Of a loan on the truth that we might never repay