

Olumide Popoola

dem natural beauties

she say
de other woman color reeeally fine
not like ours not like mine
the right shade it was she said
I enjoyed it like I did mine and yours
how tired I was
after years and years having to change into right

she say
the other woman reeeal pretty
meaning that I was not quite
to me she looked rather uneventful
but of course
my hair did not match fashion magazines
nor did my face and least my style
thank goodness- a big up to dem natural beauties

they say
dem no like my hair
I must shave my legs
Wax every little hair that is there
I did it
And yes it did feel very light
But still I didn't make me no right

She looked and complained
Say how I behave
Say I must be tamed
So I can't have a place
In high society
I looked at her closely and I said
No
Look at yourself for a minute
And tell me where exactly did u go
Not being yourself

Then there was this one
She always knew better
Everything she said
Was a fact for that matter
She would tell me
No, you're wrong
When I was just explaining what in my life went down
She made her own rules and applied them to the whole world
Funny enough I never heard
How she herself was doing

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But I guess when you're so busy telling people what is right
There's not much time left
For your own life

Then there was this one
She had a big behind
Flesh on her bones and she was all mine
People were disappointed
Said I could have gotten better
So they disapproved
I couldn't care less
She didn't give me any blues
Then one day we went to the park
Cause we were bored
Sister came up to me and shouted
Yo, you could be so nice
If you just tried a little more

I couldn't help myself
My heart went sore
I needed to have my say
And corrected her right there

You got it wrong
I am how I should
And if you'd stop trying so hard
It would be all good
You got it wrong baby
I am just fine
Whatever you see here at least it's purely mine
You got it wrong sister
You are trying too hard
Instead of so much good advice
I'd rather have a glimpse at your heart

A big up to dem natural beauties
Dem afro hair and all them other goodies
A big up to queen self esteem
Work dat pride girl
And respect what you see
A big up to nappy hair and that nose you got
I love your mouth especially between the front teeth the gap
Word up now to them black people behind
We all know what they can do for you at night
A big up now and forever
To your thighs, your belly and all them problemzones
Believe me baby
They all go really really
Well with your bones
A big up to hairy legs

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or dem shaved behinds
Well whatever suits you
Who am I to decide
a big up to our light skinned beauties
dem mixed shapes or dark dark cuties
Much respect now to queen self esteem
Isn't it lovely
So different are we.