



reincarnated

Kendrick Lamar

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"reincarnated" kicks off the second section of GNX with a continuation of the Spanish-language...

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[Intro: Deyra Barrera]

Que reflejan tu mirada

La noche, tú y yo

[Verse 1: Kendrick Lamar]

I got this fire burnin' in me from within

Concentrated thoughts on who I used to be, I'm
sheddin' skin

Every day, a new version of me, a third of me
demented, cemented in pain

Juggling the pros and cons of fame

I don't know how to make friends, I'm a lonely soul

[Verse 3: Kendrick Lamar]

My present life is Kendrick Lamar

A rapper looking at the lyrics to keep you in awe

The only factor I respected was raisin' the bar

My instincts sent material straight to the charts, huh

My father kicked me out the house, I finally forgive him

I'm old enough to understand the way I was livin'

Ego and pride had me looking at him with resentment

I close my eyes, hoping that I don't come off contentious

I'm yelling, "Father, did I finally get it right?"

Everything I did was selfless

I spoke freely, when the people needed me, I helped them

I didn't gloat, even told 'em, "No," when the vultures came

Took control of my fleshly body when the money changed

Son, you do well, but your heart is closed

I can tell residue that linger from your past creates itself

Father, I'm not perfect, I got urges, but I hold them down

"But your pride has to die," okay, Father, show me how

Tell me every deed that you done and what you do it for

I kept one hundred institutions paid

Okay, tell me more

I put one hundred hoods on one stage

Okay, tell me more

My present life is Kendrick Lamar

A rapper looking at the lyrics to keep you in awe

The only factor I respected was raisin' the bar
My instincts sent material straight to the charts, huh

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In the first two verses, Kendrick describes his prior lives. In the third and final verse, he speaks from his current point-of-view as Kendrick Lamar. He mentions reincarnation throughout GNX, including on the album's second track, "squabble up":

“ God knows
I am reincarnated
I was stargazin'

Reincarnation is the religious or philosophical belief that the soul or spirit, after biological death, begins a new life in a new body that may be human, animal, or spiritual, depending on the moral quality of the previous life's actions. Kendrick's lyrics also suggest that he believes his current life path is a culmination of remaining spiritually disciplined. This theme reemerges on track four, "man at the garden":

“ I did it with integrity and niggas still try
hate on me, just wait and see

It's also worth noting that Kendrick utilizes some double entendre here. The phrase

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hate on me, just wait and see

It's also worth noting that Kendrick utilizes some double entendre here. The phrase "raising the bar" means to raise a standard or a literal bar in athletics, or, in this case, to refer to so-called "bars" or lines in a song. This echoes a similar sentiment expressed by Lamar during his controversial featured verse on August 2013's "Control" by Big Sean:

