

Legend - Bob Marley

Part 1

- Explore origins: His early beginning with the wailers, as well as the lasting impact he had on those around him.

Bob Marley was born in the Jamaican countryside, he was a fisherman. He formed a band "The Wailers" in his teens with 2 friends, the first songs they made, Were heavily influenced by US music at the time.

Part 2

- Diving into Bob Marley's spirituality in Rastafari and how he brought this religion to the forefront in pop culture.

A big and very important aspect of Bob Marley's identity is his belief in Rastafarianism. He mentions it a lot in his music but also in his look, wearing dreadlocks. Many also saw, Bob Marley as a prophet, because of his great impact on Jamaica. Bob's wife Rita, Is the one that introduced Bob Marley to Rastafarianism. Bob introduced Rastafari to the world. Bob was also very known for smoking marijuana or "Ganja". Although, it Is illegal in Jamaica the Rastafarians believe the plant's properties enhance their spiritual connection, providing insight, inspiration, and a deeper understanding of themselves and the universe.

Part 3

- How the attempt on his life sparked a movement against violence in Jamaica.

In 1976 gunmen stormed Bob Marley's home in an attempted assassination. But to Completely understand this story you need to understand Jamaica's political state at the time. The country was mainly separated into two political parties, which cause extreme Violence towards each other but also the police (the left vs the right). This led to gunman of one of the political parties rushing into Bob Marley's home. But why? Bob was never in favor of politics but was seen as a political figure because of his lyrics. Reggae music was also used as a means for social protest and political messages. Bob Marley wanted a change for the jamaican people, due to the increasing violence at the time. Bob Marley was invited to perform a peace concert at an attempt to diffuse the rising tensions between the people of jamaica. Since this event was organized by one of the political parties, it was seen as "siding" by the rival party. This made Bob Marley a target. 2 days before the "Smile Jamaica" concert, these rival members broke into Bob's home and ended up shooting his wife, two band members and himself. Luckily, there were no fatalities. Despite the shooting, Bob Marley agreed to continue forward to performing at the 'Smile Jamaica' concert, but only performing 1 song. He ended up singing for 90 minutes. This event inspired the song. A few years later he performed at another political concert, the "One Love" peace concert where he invited both heads of

opposing political parties.

Part 4

- What Bob Marley fought for, exploring social issues and articulating the struggles his brothers and sisters have endured.

Many of Bob Marley's songs touch upon difficult social and social justice topics.

In his song "Get Up, Stand Up" he speaks about injustice, colonialism and systemic oppression, specifically experienced by people of color.

In "War" he tells the listeners that we are doing wrong by discriminating against others instead of helping each other. By listening and understanding "War", it can open our eyes to see how racism can badly affect our world and it tells us in what ways it affects us, and to what point it affects us. We all live in the same world and whatever comes around goes around so why do wrong instead of helping each other?

"Until the color of a man's skin is no more significant than the color of his eyes."

And "Until the philosophy which hold one race, Superior and another Inferior"

"Them Belly Full But We Hungry" touches on class issues, speaking on how "them" the elite, the people ruling the system have their bellies full meanwhile the people "we" are hungry. The rest of the song however, speaks on how even under these circumstances they will "dance to Jah music". This is another song that sends a message of forgetting the troubles of life.

In "Babylon System" Bob says "Babylon system is the vampire" Babylon is commonly referred to in the rastafari religion, used to describe the system; politics, police, laws etc. Without apology, he describes living conditions orchestrated by a "vampire" state – "sucking the blood of the sufferers". He signals early in this anthem that it's a cry for "people's freedom and liberty", he has also grown impatient – "We have been trodding on the winepress much too long". This analogy symbolizes the people treading the wine press for too long, meanwhile the wine produced only benefits the owners of the wine, making money off of people's backs.

Part 5

- Natural Mystic,

On May 11, 1981 Bob Marley passed away at the age of 36 years old.

On the day of his funeral it is estimated that around 100.000 people attended his funeral in Jamaica, during the march to his final resting place, during the ceremony "Natural Mystic" was played and people got up and started singing along and dancing, celebrating bob's life and legacy.