

BLACK TO THE FUTURE THE END OF THE WORLD PARTY

The concept for my idea comes from extensive literature research but mainly after watching the BBC documentary "Dark matters, a history of the Afrofuture"(Dark Matter: A History of the Afrofuture, 2021). Watching the documentary, I was left feeling inspired by the beautiful visuals and the Afrofuturistic stories that were told.

From Drexciya's story of an underwater world where black women would have given birth to babies that can breathe in the water to Sunra's incredible and inspiring story that he came from space, from a place where black people can live freely made me think further about what if? What if slavery never happened? What if it happened for a reason? The question of identity is predominant in Afrofuturistic concepts. They also mentioned this idea of double consciousness. W.E.B Du bois explain that black people have to see life through their own eyes but also through the eyes of a white society (Du Bois, 1903). Double consciousness is also an invitation to see the world twice over; see the world with an awareness of it's contradictions. Who are we? Ralph Ellison said, "I could not see the future, and then it did not matter. I was on the cave living in now so that I could live later, and to come, I watched the fire burn on, and I knew one thing for certain that I was there, and I had been dedicated." (Ellison, 1952)

The question of identity is always central in black people's minds. I myself have often struggled with this unsatisfied feeling of not being home. Afrofuturism allows us to see the world as alien and strange, which perfectly describes why I resonate so much with it from the start. Whenever I travel are always wish planes could keep on going higher. I wish I could walk out and walk on the clouds. There's something peaceful about the sky for me. Whenever I look at the stars, I like having this idea that they are looking out for me that they are there to watch and guide us.

Sunra said in *Space is the Place*, “How do you know I am real? I am not real. I am just like you. You don't exist in this society. If you did, your people wouldn't be seeking equal rights. You are not real. If you were, you would have some status among the nation of this world. I do not come to you as a reality, I come to you as a myth because that's what black people are: myths. I come from a dream that the black man dreamed long ago. I'm actually a presence sent to you from your ancestors” (*Space Is the Place*, 1974. Maybe we are from somewhere else, and perhaps we are only transitioning to go home. As I think and learn more about this question of identity and double consciousness, I start. To believe that maybe the universe put us black people down on Earth to teach something to humanity or learn something and as soon as that will be done, we will be able to elevate and go home, perhaps was Sunra is.

Shay

References

Dark Matter: A History of the Afrofuture. 2021. [video] Directed by J. Van Der Pool and J. Lee. BBC.

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Ellison, R., 1952. *Invisible man*. New York: Random House.

Space Is the Place. 1974. [film] Directed by J. Coney. California.