



ARTISTS HAVE ALWAYS TUGGED AT THE APRON STRINGS OF SOCIETY. THE ARTIST ALWAYS FEELS THE THING, AND THROUGH THE YEARS ARTISTS HAVE CALLED ON SOCIETY TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

are designing computers to compose music, not just to play it, but also to compose.

R: But they give it information saying what music is.

Yes, they give it a field within which to work. But don't we have a field within which to work? You were programmed. Even as a baby you woke up and someone was playing a radio nearby.

R: Right, right. At the same time though, you listen to Wu-Tang and you never heard music like that on the planet before.

But they could say that about what computers do, too. Isn't it true that there are only a certain number of notes you can play? Granted you put them in different orders and play them together at different times -

R: I disagree with you on that. When niggas started sampling, if [music] was finite you had to multiply finite by finite when sampling came out. Now you can take something, alter it to make a whole new thing, and it could never be known where it came from—because of the frequency of music. If I sample something at 44 hertz I'm going to get a different tonation. If I mix a different sound in it at another frequency or amplitude I got another tonation. A lot of the music I make has no beat to it; the beat exists only if I fit it within a certain scope. That's why my music is bugged out. That's why niggas that smoke weed listen to my shit—because it feeds your mind.

So mainly we're talking about inspiration.

R: You think a computer's going to get inspired?

I: I don't think so. A computer can't feel.

R: They may come up with a cyborg form of life, but the only way they could get a soul into it is if they get the carbon and DNA of somebody else, which will give them an imitation soul.

I: You got to make it organic.

So you think there's something going on in organic matter that we don't understand yet? Making a soul in inorganic matter impossible?

R: How did the forty-eight different shades of humans come about? Scientists say the

white man has no melanin in him. Certain things affect us that don't affect ya'll because they mix with our melanin and make it double dangerous for us. So if you make another being you can't expect it to be the same.

I: I've attended melanin conferences. The black man, when he's conceived, when the sperm penetrates the egg, it's immediately surrounded in melanin.

R: I've been studying melanin myself. Melanin is very magnetic. It's in tune with the earth's magnetic field. Scientists haven't even explained that and they're trying to create new life.

I: One thing we vibe on is the importance of Africa. Especially to American youth. They know nothing about Africa. I think that contributes to the insanity. They're cut off from their place of origin. I've been there. I know what you feel when you go there. I'm a king there. My name is Nenekatey Ocansey the 1st. In Ghana, West Africa. I just built a school over there. RZA has contributed to my school twice. Denzel Washington did, Bob Johnson of BET did, a few of my celebrity friends did.

Are there many celebrities that try to do things like that?

I: There's a lack of that. African Americans are so far removed, with this bullshit sense of security. They need to go there and help our distant relatives that are dying from AIDS in Africa, and all the kids that are orphaned because of it. We have to do the right thing. That's our genetic birthplace. When we were brought here we left a lot of people back there. It's like when they put that wall up between East and West Germany. Families were separated. Imagine if that had lasted for years, people would still have longed to go back there.

But the difference is that African-American family structure was totally shattered by slavery.

R: It's more than that. It's that their knowledge was shattered.

I: That's right. They have no knowledge of self. If kids just touch their feet on that soil...

R: I went to Africa. I never saw so much sky. I just grew. I probably grew like two inches. Felt like a super hero.

I: That's what people are missing over here with all this madness. They need some spiritual overhauling.

Can you tell us anything about what you two are planning?

R: There will be some music coming out of us. I'd rather show you than tell you.

I: It's gonna be big. Put your seat belts on. ♦