The History of Robert Nesta Marley (Bob Marley)

By Tessa Maywald And Bridget Rankine
Early Life Of Robert Nesta Marley

Bob Marley was born in the village of Nine Mile, in Saint Ann Parish, Jamaica, on the 6th of February 1945. He was born with the name Nesta Robert Marley and it was later changed to Robert (Bob) Nesta Marley. Bob Marley spent most of his earlier years in Saint Ann with his mother, Cedella Booker. In his teen years, Bob moved to Trench town, Kingston, Jamaica. Bob experienced a tough childhood involving poverty and violence. During this time Bob embraced his love for music, and sang it through church choirs, and continued to get encouragement from his friends and family.
Bob had a 50 year old white English-Jamaican father. Norval Sinclair Marley claimed to be a captain of the Royal Marines, and married Cedella Booker, an 18 year old Afro-Jamaican, in 1945. Norval provided money for his wife and child, but was often away on trips. And in 1955, when Bob was just 10 years old, Norval unfortunately passed away from a heart attack at the age of 70.
Singer, songwriter, and musician, Bob Marley, a world ambassador for reggae music, sold more than 20 million records throughout his career, making him the first international superstar to emerge from the “third world.” Throughout his life, Bob managed to win a spot in “Rock and Roll Hall of Fame,” a Grammy life time achievement award, and he won Time’s Album of the Century.
How Bob Impacted the World

Selling over 20 million records, Bob Marley was the first international superstar, to emerge from the “third world” giving third world countries hope, that anyone can succeed if they really try, even in the harshest environments.
Buffalo Soldier
Songwriters: Williams, Noel George / Marley, Bob

Buffalo soldier, dreadlock Rasta:
There was a buffalo soldier in the heart of America,
Stolen from Africa, brought to America,
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival.

I mean it, when I analyze the stench -
To me it makes a lot of sense:
How the dreadlock Rasta was the buffalo soldier,
And he was taken from Africa, brought to America,
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival.

Said he was a buffalo soldier, dreadlock Rasta -
Buffalo soldier in the heart of America.

If you know your history,
Then you would know where you coming from,
Then you wouldn't have to ask me,
Who the 'eck do I think I am.

I'm just a buffalo soldier in the heart of America,
Stolen from Africa, brought to America,
Said he was fighting on arrival, fighting for survival;
Said he was a buffalo soldier win the war for America.
Dreadie, woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!
Woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!
Buffalo soldier troddin' through the land, wo-ho-ooh!
Said he wanna ran, then you wanna hand,
Troddin' through the land, yea-hea, yea-ea.

Said he was a buffalo soldier win the war for America;
Buffalo soldier, dreadlock Rasta,
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival;
Driven from the mainland to the heart of the Caribbean.

Singing, woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!
Woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!

Troddin' through San Juan in the arms of America;
Troddin' through Jamaica, a buffalo soldier# -
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival:
Buffalo soldier, dreadlock Rasta.

Woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!
Woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!
Buffalo Soldier Analysis

We think that the song “Buffalo Soldier” is about the African slaves who were stolen from Africa and brought to America to fight for the land that was used by native Americans. In the song, Bob Marley shows that justice for Africans was ignored and he expresses his fight for African rights through music.
Bob was very involved with Rastafarianism. Rastafarianism is like praying with singing, to “communicate” with God. Many Rastafarians smoke drugs and wear dreadlocks. They smoke drugs because Psalm 104:14 says “he causeth herb (to be grown) for the service of man...” and their hairstyle comes from Leviticus 21:5 “they shall not make baldness upon their head”.

[Image of Rastafarian flag]
Why we Chose the Subject

We chose this subject because both of us think that Bob Marley is not just an artist but an inspiration. He emerged from the third world, and became the world’s most popular reggae artist without losing hope along the way- after all crises he went through. We believe that Bob Marley is a music icon that will never be forgotten and should always be embraced in our history.
Death

Bob Marley was diagnosed with acral lentiginous melanoma underneath the nail of a toe. He refused to get his toe amputated due to religious beliefs. The result of this was that his melanoma spread throughout his lungs and brain. On the eleventh of May 1981 Bob Marley sadly passed away at the age of 36. His last words to his son Ziggy were “money can’t buy life.”

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