

Song Analysis: “Mystery Repeats” by Pete Philly and Perquisite

Mystery repeats
Life got tricks but its treats too
[Unclear, possibly: Love my ancestry]
Yo I see you

You lifted me
Cause I lifted you
Continue this beautiful cycle

Used to be irresponsible
Like you
How much been decided for you
You don't know
So just go
As far as you can go,
Go slow.

Hey yo

Know this I've noticed
What it is about all this
Separating real from the fake and bogus
Sitting at the dock of the bay like Otis
We just slide, do this thing called life
Everything gon' be alright
As you stay true to the path that's inside

Mystery repeats x 4

What if I never went and smoked that first spliff
What if I never gave Sam that first kiss
What if I never even heard EPD
Would you still notice me?

What if I never went and heard Perq's first demo
Gave him a call "To the crib", (hey dog)
Would I still been known as the fellow
Rolling with the dude with the cello

What if
These questions arise
As I look in my eyes
And I see my own surprise

Wondering what path lies before me
Probably the same as the ones before me
And I, pass it right down to my seed



A mystery indeed
I'd tell him how proud I'll be
Go ahead make history

Mystery Repeats 4x

As the newborn start to breathe
As the widow starts to grieve
It seems that mystery repeats itself all over
As the newborn start to breathe
As the widow starts to grieve
It seems that mystery repeats itself all over

Mystery Repeats 8x

Sources:
<http://www.petephillyandperquisite.com/index.php?p=newsof&id=76>



Song Analysis: Language Acquisition

Dutch hiphop

"Nederland: Bedankt voor die hiphop!"

Somehow it seems out of place. We see people like NAS, Eminem and 2Pac on MTV all the time, rapping and claiming they've emerged from the very slumps of American metropolises like New York and Los Angeles... They were poor, and had to put up with violence and drugs-related crimes all the time. Their parents died early and they never received proper education. Well, they had a talent. They could rap like a - in their language - mofo. And by exploiting that gift, they were able to get out of the misery they had lived in since their birth: true heroes of the American Dream.

Looking at who are supposed to be their Dutch equivalents, I personally can't help but chuckle. The so-called Dutch superegos of hiphop are sissies compared to their American colleagues. They have never known poverty, they have never lacked common prosperity in their lives. Brainpower and the duo Lange Frans and Baas B. went to college in Amsterdam, while Extince was busy finishing his secondary education in Brabant. Brainpower went to the same Kindergarten as several members from Within Temptation (imagine that, 50 Cent having gone to school with members of a rock band). Raymzter even openly admits he's "not a gangster, but a 'hosselaar' and a dope vocalist" in one of his songs.

So, clearly, the Dutch hiphop stars do not have that greasy feeling of someone who has almost literally elevated himself from the dirt to high society and going on about "keepin' it real". Does that turn Dutch rap into Dutch crap? The answer is a wholehearted no.

Dutch rap is more inventive than American rap is. Remember Relax? In one of their songs they praise the genre, proclaiming "Hiphop, you're the love of my life now". And apparently, they love it so much that they proceed to donate a precious gift to the music. Well, what's in the box? Raw, distorted guitar sounds. And a set of drums. For the first time in history 2Pac and Rammstein could merge into one single band. This would not ever

be possible in United States, where one has to put a beat to his raps to be taken seriously.

From this perspective, it isn't surprising that when we check the passports of Pete Philly & Perquisite, we found out they are both Dutch. Fusing genres that were prior to their success considered polar opposites, the duo quickly scores a few hits using not just fast raps, but also violins, acoustic guitars and what else one needs to become a jazz band. When mixed together, a force to be reckoned with. Hell yeah, Holland!

by Tim Engelbart

Song Analysis: Linguistics

Pete Philly's accent

What to say about this song? Actually, I have to admit I find little linguistic in this song that makes me want to write a linguistic song analysis. Therefore, I will just list a couple of things that stand out while hearing the song and listening to the song. But first, what about the linguistic profile of this Pete? He was born on Aruba, and according to his official website, grew up in an international environment, which is presented as a reason for him rapping in English. The kind of English will probably be a sort of melting pot English, more likely American than British. Likewise, from his place of birth, he might have been influenced by Papiamentu – and his Dutch is also quite ok as you might have heard in interviews.

Now, on to some linguistic thoughts:

- he has a rather sharp t in notice and otis.
- gonna is further shortened to gon'
- as to the word cycle (which the lyrics I found say), he pronounces it almost like psycho
- another thing about his 't': he has a glottal one in separating, almost a glottal stop. Slightly less so in sitting.
- nice creaky voice in 'the path that's inside'

by Gea Dreschler

Sources:

<http://www.petephillyandperquisite.com/?p=gettoknow>

Song Analysis: Philology

It's a mystery

Mystery: it's one of the oddest words in the English language. But why? Well, y indeed.

Brits aren't particularly fond of the letter y—it's usually found at the end of words as a suffix (-y or -ly) or just as an ending (sly or wry, for example). A common mistake many students of English make is to leave out the y that seems most out of place, resulting in people the world over writing about a 'mistry', when they're alluding to something baffling. And really, who can blame them? It certainly seems to make more sense than how you're actually supposed to spell it.

Intrigued by this—dare I say it?—mysterious word, I decided to delve into the OED to try to figure it out. The first thing that I noticed was that it has a borderline-ridiculous amount of meanings, even though most of them have ceased being relevant in the past few centuries. Did you know that a mystery can also be a kind of plum cake? Or a lady of questionable virtue? It can even be an alloy of various metals, meant to resemble gold.

That's all very well and good, of course, but according to the good old OED, the actual form of the word has hardly changed since it first popped up in 1350. It started off as 'mysterye', and has remained virtually unchanged since. Sometimes an e was dropped, and sometimes the first y was dropped in favour of a much more sensible i, but that's it.

It seems that the exact nature of mystery will have to remain, yes, a mystery.

by Leah Clarke

Song Analysis: Literature

Life

This song is all about life. Isn't it a mystery? At some point you start to wonder about your own life. What if this happened, would I then be ...? or ...? Who am I? What do I want from life? Why

am I alive anyway? There is even an official term for this: Quarter Life Crisis. This usually occurs when you are in your twenties, on a quarter of your life, like most of us students. Pete Philly, aka Pieter Philip Monzon is from 1980, so he meets the most important criterion of being in his twenties. Of course Pete Philly need not necessarily be in a crisis, but in this song he does wonder about his life and life in general.

First of all life is a cycle: you're born, you live, you grow old, you die and someone else is born. As the newborn starts to breathe, / as the widow start to grieve, / it seems that mystery repeats, itself all over. This will go on forever: the mystery repeats. It will pass on to your children, your seed. And you'll be proud of your children, you'll encourage them to go make history too, like Pete Philly & Perquisite. After you're born, you will grow older. In this process, you learn to separate real from the fake and bogus. In other words: You learn what things are important in life, and what things you should not do. In this process of growth you will just have to follow your heart, the path that's inside, and everything will be all right. You just slide through life, just like Otis Redding, when he sits at the dock of the San Francisco bay, watching the ships pass through.

Then when you are a bit older, in your twenties like Pete, you will look back on your life so far. Some questions will arise: What if I never smoked that first spliff (joint)? What if I never gave Sen that first kiss? (or whoever it was that you first kissed) What if I never [...] heard Perq's first demo? Would things be different?

Perq is of course Perquisite, the other half of the duo, the dude with the cello. Because of his classical background he added classical elements to the beats he made. Pete and Perq met through a mutual friend. This mixture of hip-hop and rap with classical music and jazz makes the duo quite unique. Would Pete Philly have had all the successes he had now, without ever meeting Perq? We will never know this, but that's probably a good thing: Because if Pete didn't hear EPD and meet Perq, there would not be this wonderful song to analyse!

by Anna Visser