

## **Blues dance sufferers style**

Levi Tafari

Beating bouncing bubbling  
reggae music jumps out from a dread sound system  
riding on clouds of smoke  
vibrating through the structure of the building  
communicating to the people  
bringing forth a message of redemption  
Bob Marley sings a song with a Rasta connection  
brothers and sisters rocking  
entwined like a root that keeps growing

## **Blues dance sufferers style**

**mi seh de DJ play and de DJ say**

**'Guh deh cause yuh wicked and yuh wild**

**roots rock don't stop yuh haffe move forward.'**

Darkness fills the room  
'ites', gold and green shines brightly  
beaming like the full moon  
the vibes a run right the atmosphere gets bubbly  
cans of Red Stripe flowing like a never ending stream  
the music keeps on growing fulfilling all your dreams  
the partaking of the peace pipe the smell of the herb is ire  
mixed with curry goat and rice  
the kitchen plays its part  
and the dance smells nice

**Blues dance sufferers style**

**mi seh de DJ play and de DJ say**

**'Guh deh cause yuh wicked and yuh wild  
roots rock don't stop yuh haffe move forward.'**

A commercial break

it's a soul earthquake

some get funky

soul heads bop to the music

slipping and sliding them could never refuse it

lovers dance cheek to cheek

whilst skankers skank the late hour

dripping in sweat like them just get a shower

hold tight each night

this is black music

Battling two sound system

competition takes place inna the blues dance

DJs flashing lyrics rapidly

'Get flat or get shot' keep moving

ravers coming and going

checking out the various sessions

nuff dance inna de area

which one fi check it's a dread decision

**Blues dance sufferers style**

**mi seh de DJ play and de DJ say**

**'Guh deh cause yuh wicked and yuh wild  
roots rock don't stop yuh haffe move forward.'**

All shades of people inna the blues dance  
dubbing to the sounds of dub  
sanctuary inna the ghetto  
an escape from commercial clubs  
disco are too clinical the DJ takes control  
disco lights imposing to the sounds of rock and roll  
the music shuts down early just a you get hyped  
the night is young and yuh want fi rave  
that style is not your type  
yuh reach de blues dance late  
yuh pay de musical rate  
yuh forward through de gate  
fi guh listen dub plate  
sweet reggae music

**Blues dance sufferers style**

**mi seh de DJ play and de DJ say**

**'Guh deh cause yuh wicked and yuh wild**

**roots rock don't stop yuh haffe move forward.'**

**move forward**

**move forward**

**inna de blues dance**

## **Levi Tafari**

Levi Tafari was born in Liverpool. He is the author of four poetry collections: *Duboetry* (1987), *Liverpool Experience* (1989), *Rhyme Don't Pay* (1998). and *From the Page to the Stage* (2006). His plays have been performed at the Unity Theatre and the Playhouse in Liverpool, and at the Blackheath Theatre in Stafford. He has worked on educational projects running creative writing workshops in schools, colleges, universities, youth centres, prisons and libraries.

Levi Tafari's musical projects include work with Ghanaian drum and dance ensemble Delado, the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and with his own reggae fusion band Ministry of Love. He has played with Urban Strawberry Lunch and Griot Workshop and with jazz musician Dennis Rollins.

He was Writer in Residence at Charles University, Prague, and has toured various countries, including the Czech Republic, Singapore and Jordan. He has also appeared in many television programmes, including *Blue Peter* and *Grange Hill*, and made a well-received film about Rastafarianism for BBC television's *Everyman* programme entitled *The Road to Zion*.

Levi has collaborated extensively with the British Council in many parts of Europe and the Far East in flagship education and arts projects such as Britlit and Inclusion and Diversity in Education (INDIE). At present, Levi is working with 50 European schools in INDIE, delivering creative writing and communication workshops to young people and sharing his unique and vibrant poetry with whole school communities.

A recording of this poem can be found on the WritersMosaic website at

**[writersmosaic.org.uk](http://writersmosaic.org.uk)**

© Levi Tafari