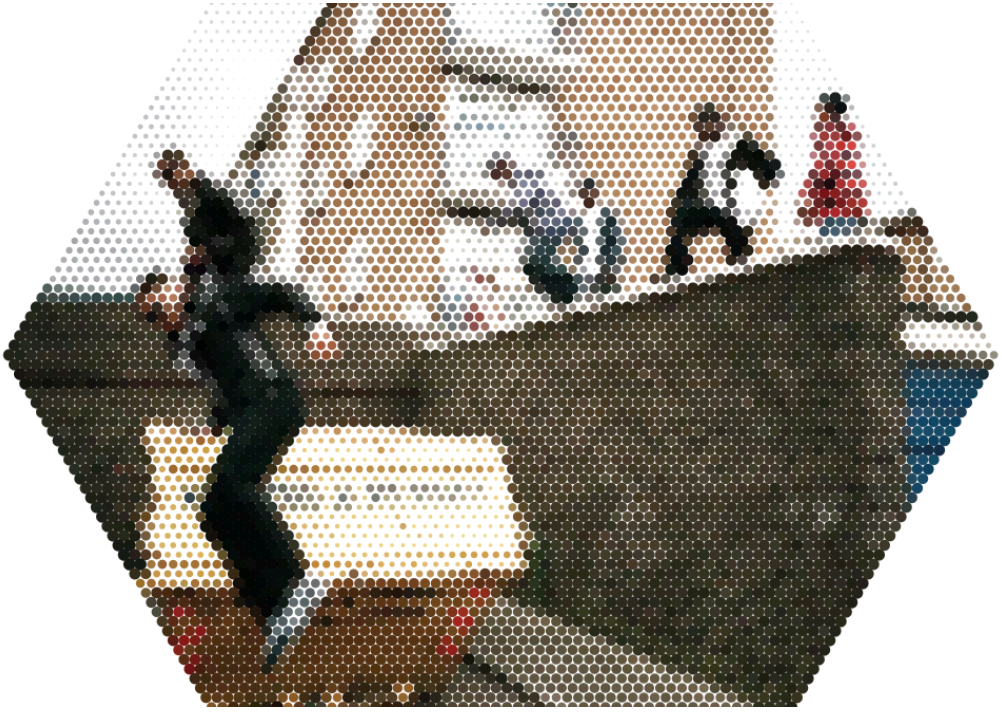
we turn estate blocks into gardens of eden.



selected poems & writings by

poet of da soil

texts herein taken from
substack.com/@poetwav & twitter
permission neither sought nor given

(4 sonya massey)

everyday is ashura
every city is karbala

mourning is easier 2 do than breathing
voting easier 2 do than fighting
scrolling easier 2 do than screaming

and eye recite sonya massey's name as *dhikr*
because she is holy and eye refuse 2 forget that

another death that plays like porn 4 voyeuristic eyes
meanwhile a roma child dies while being forced into care (~~ain't that ironic~~)
and today is chris kaba's birthday
and my cousin was stabbed yday (~~or was it 6 years ago~~)
and cynthia jarrett died next week (~~or maybe 1985~~)
and at least 4 kids were killed in goma last week
and they raised millions for kamala but ignore sudanese gofundmes
and they told me that anything is better than tha tories
but rather than dealing w landlord bullies
labour wages war on car washes and nail salons
so now it all makes sense

everyday is ashura
and every city is karbala

and it's all we'll ever know if it's all we want 2 know
but eye told my sister eye love her this morning
so eye light this cloth and grip this bottle in one hand
a brick in the other
while eye recite sonya massey's name as *dhikr*
because her smile is holy
and she deserves a 1000 jihads in her memory
so look me in my eyes and tell me you'll fight with me
or at least
sing me freedom songs 2 make tha fear go down easy

we turn estate blocks into gardens of eden.

so, autonomy?

in my own personal journey, i've come 2 a place where i've realised there is no separation between the political and the personal. that every way eye relate 2 others, every way others relate 2 me is built on the systems of domination that the world is also built on. anti-blackness, ableism, classism, (trans)misogynoir among others directly influence and dictate how we interact with one another, which is why eye now believe that autonomy - which the dictionary defines as "the right or condition of self-government," or as my friend Elizabeth puts it "a refusal to be governed," is the best way forward to lives that don't feel like death.

what happens when we refuse to be governed, by a labour or tory party every 5 years, by the state itself, by an international system of capitalism built on the backs of black people for over 400 years(?)

now this can be hard 2 imagine, we've been taught that we need the state, with its monopoly over force and violence 2 rule over us or there will be *anarchy. chaos.*

but what's chaos if not 1 in 5 people living in absolute poverty in this country, what's chaos if not 2 million people using food banks in 2023 compared to 60,000 in 2010. what's chaos if not the constant violence inflicted on black and brown peoples, be it from the police or immigration. the state relegates us (niggas) to economically neglected yet over-policed neighbourhoods, menial jobs and a constant state of barely treading water day by day, pay check to pay check. the time 4 change is now, the time 2 imagine more, of rejecting what they give us and creating our own ways of living.

tha zapatistas(!)

now a whole lot of this seems lofty and abstract but there are countless examples of societies and communities that live and have lived outside the idea of the nation-state, that instead govern themselves and figure out how to exist collectively.

from pre-colonial societies of the Igbo 2 the autonomous region in Syria known as Rojava, people again and again have learned and struggled against oppression 2 live in non-state frameworks.

one of the most successful communities is that of the Zapatistas. indigenous peoples in Chiapas, Mexico rose up in 1994 in what is known as the Zapatistas revolution against the neoliberal policies of the Mexican government that sought to further marginalise indigenous communities and their ownership of the land they lived on.

30 years later, the Zapatistas have collectively organised 27 autonomous municipalities, collectively own and look after the land, built their own healthcare systems, primary and secondary schools and education programmes firmly rooted in their commitment to a struggle for *a world where many worlds exist*. the Zapatistas are a living, breathing example of autonomy, which they describe as *creating new life*.

nu life in babylon(?)

so now, what is there 2 be done(?) we are living in a world where multiple genocides are being perpetrated while we live in the belly of the beast that plays a pivotal part in orchestrating em (the West/imperial core).

black and brown communities here in Babylon are bearing the brunt of the violence that the ruling classes of Babylon inflict on its inhabitants, forming internal colonies that are super-exploited by the state.

this can be seen in the disparities faced by these internal colonies in terms of maternal mortality rates, police brutality, underemployment, displacement via gentrification among other things. life aint been good, and it aint gonna get better, unless we say enough is enough and struggle for something more than this. unless we struggle for autonomy.

if autonomy means 2 create nu life, what does that look like(?)

what does it mean 2 create nu life in a world predicated on death? how do we look despair, neglect and violence in tha face and constantly war against that(?)

by pooling our resources togetha, moving togetha, trusting each other and creating programmes and spaces where life can flow in ways tha world doesn't want. we look 2 tha past and learn how 2 create -

- housing co-ops that protect tha most marginalised among us, we reclaim spaces and zones that have been captured and simply left 2 rot by tha exploitative housing system.

we turn estate blocks into gardens of eden, with community gardens and food co-ops

- liberation schools where neglected black kids come and learn english, maths, history, afrikan languages, and whatever they desire all rooted in the knowledge that we all learn from each other , in non-hierarchical modes of educating.
- we engage in political education - turn back and remember our ancestors and their lessons, commune with those who fought for nu life be it in South Carolina or Azania (known as the settler state of South Africa)

- we don't forget our ppl stuck inside the prisons, instead we fight for them because 2 fight for them is 2 fight for us - we remember that the line between citizen and criminal is a blurred one when we all seen as nigg(a)er
- we provide self-defence classes centred in knowing we live in societies that disable us daily and learn to move with our bodies not against them
- we provide food and clothes and care and affection for and by everyone.
- we take over wherever we want and we dance and dance and dance, we hold ourselves and our bodies in poetry and music and plays and art that reminds us black flesh is only as dead as we allow it 2 be.

if autonomy is 2 create nu life it is not resurrection, we don't hope and long for better days where tha NHS works and tony blair is giving us new pathways while sending us 2 pen and warring 4 oil, we understand that voting doesn't offer salvation only validation for a system that kills us

if autonomy is 2 create nu life it is not praying 4 rapture and looking 2 paradise or space for an escape out of the dunya

it is not wishing for blackface 2 be our butcher be it prime minister, president or king

it is not seeking internship or degree 2 be free because black excellence isn't black liberation

it is dapping up a loved one and asking “how far”

not letting go when their head drops a lil as they sigh and say we’re trying

and telling them togetha life can be more than what we are given.

and with that, eye leave you with a poem. peace and one love.

we turn estate blocks into gardens of eden
there are gods who don't want us 2 bite into fruit and discover our own divinity
yet we can't rely on marathon prayers 2 fill our bellies

we sign ballot papers as liability waivers
so MPs get off scot free and drink free wine in their parliament bars
is this what we call democracy (?)
tell ourselves rainbow lies
like green and yellow might be better than red or blue
like tha colour wheel ain't mouldy

how long will we wait in
supermarket-hospital-jobcentre-immigration office-food bank-hostel-chicken shop queues
must be why so many black yutes look 2 internship for priority passes
they ain't know rollercoaster runs on tha blood of their cousins

but its time 2 get off tha ride - don't u hear em scream(?)
tha smog coats our lungs
netflix covers our eyes
and the latest diss track built on black womyn bruise blocks our ears

time 2 get off tha ride
rub your eyes
breathe in
breathe out
there is no time but now
cut apathy off and find a friend in your anger and despair
introduce yourself 2 hope

yeah the ends is being gentrified
but if our ancestors resisted colonial hands so can we
grab your ppldem, bun a zoot and read some fanon
grab a mask, some gloves and a shovel
babylon ain't got no claim 2 tha land they mistreat
we are living dead so we rebel w nu life
we turn estate blocks into gardens of eden

election time, blessing time (?)

on sunday, my father asked that we pray 4 god's will 2 be done in regards 2 this country's elections. he asked that we pray for god's blessings, direction and providence

and this makes me think

if scripture says let justice roll on like wata and righteousness like an ever flowing stream then what is jah's will if not tha end of babylon(?)

by the time this post drops a lot of us will be going 2 that ballot box, hoping for redemption/resurrection or just something better than the conditions we live in now. tha job market's heart barely beats (as a nigga counting pennies eye know this 2 well), the nhs continues 2 decline, most ppl my age won't be house owners and the government asks for ceasefire with one mouth and vomits up funds and weapons for genocide with another.

a friend asked me who im voting for and eye told em no one

we offer up our vote as petition and pleas hoping that deities above will hear us

but voting can't give us the breath in our lungs that we so desire

many complained when the head of the international slavery museum accepted an OBE. it was seen as disrespecting all those who were captured by this empire, all the families violently separated, all the men, womyn, pikins and gender maroons who suffered in ways we cannot imagine

... but if that's a slap in the face of our ancestors than our vote is us spitting on their graves.

labour day

we've often seen the labour party as the "black party", the party of the working class and the hero 2 tha tories' villainous behaviour.

2 put it simply if the conservatives are tha moustache-twirling, cat-stroking supervillain with a history of evil plans (which unlike in tha comics have not been thwarted), tha labour party has consistently been tha shiny suit slicked-back hair philanthropist, fighting for "justice", smiling at minority communities while secretly slow-dripping poison into the meals they give us.

it must be stated loud and clearly that the benefits the labour party proclaim 2 have gifted onto the working class

such as universal healthcare are covered in the blood of the third/fourth worlds.

the wealth tha united kkkingdom has accumulated is directly from tha enslavement of afrikans and the exploitation of resources of tha third world over 400+ years. this wealth has been used, particularly by the Labour Party 2 get tha british working class 2 a level of comfort that **means it collaborates w the ruling class of babylon, rather than moving against it**. people here are stuck in a haze of material safety and comfort that means they would rather vote and work within this system of death and exploitation than put their bodies on tha line for more.

this doesn't even take into account how labour has consistently been anti-black and anti-muslim , be it in its **colonial policies, immigration policies** and tony blair's **law and order policies** 2 Keir Starmer's current wave of excommunicating black and brown MPs, **particularly womyn** and giving up seats 2 other fascists because a **young black mp candidate was gaining more popularity**.

what makes this election unique is that there is a level of ennui and disillusionment that many of my elders say they haven't seen eva.

the genocide tha zionist state is enacting on palestinians over the last 9 months has unveiled many peoples eyes as to how the two major parties are complicit and tha bloodshed

that makes the world go by. in addition 2 this, the Labour Party has transformed from one that has always claimed 2 fight for the poor 2 one that has been called the tories in red clothing.

what must be understood is that **no political party will save us,** even the smaller ones.

when we look at tha genocide of palestinians there is no mainstream political party that calls 4 tha complete liberation of palestine (greens 4 example call 4 a 2 state solution - **nvm that their "green" policies rely on the continued exploitation of afrika**). this doesn't even take into account how the mainstream political parties ignore the genocides in tha DRC, Tigray, Sudan and Kashmir and the suffering of those we call tha wretched of tha earth.

this is because all these parties are not seeking fundamental changes 2 tha state of tha world, but rather seeking power 2 gain from tha state of this world.

voting in this system cannot bring any material improvement 2 tha conditions of the oppressed around tha world because

- **ALL political parties clamouring for your vote are deeply committed 2 tha continuation of racial capitalism and its anchoring by patriarchal relations (as seen by the rising transphobia and**

rolling back of queer/LGBTQ+ rights in the so called "western" progressive countries).

every vote in this election be it 4 labour, tories, green or lib dems is a vote that drives us further into: a **climate crisis** that our ppl in afrika, asia and tha caribbean will suffer most from, the continued strengthening of a **fascist police state**, a life that is simply death.

so what do we do(?)

we are seemingly heading 2 a world where tha Labour Party is in power, either on its own 2 feet or in coalition with other parties (but u neva know w tha ~~racist~~ white vote). while many may proclaim anything but tha tories is good enough, i'd like 2 let niggas know that keir starmer is

- planning 2 recruit thousands of more police officers 4 more violence on neglected neighbourhoods
- "tougher consequences on knife crime"rather than any sort of transformative/reparative justice measures that actually looks at the needs of yutes who feel they need 2 protect themselves w a shank and the needs of their communities
- "stronger border control" which is essentially pandering 2 tha racist anti-migration crowd who fail 2 understand ppl leave their home countries because they are exploited by tha west, disabling these

> countries from effectively caring for its citizens. the labour party will continue 2 inflict pain and suffering on those risking their lives 2 come here because tha system it seeks 2 partake in can neva allow for a world where this exploitation stops.

instead of voting, and believing that's enough in our duty 2 ourselves and others

or simply giving up and doing nothing

we must look 2 building new worlds in this one

we must look 2 connecting with those around us (bruv shout me nd let's chop it up(!))

2 building bonds with and centring the most marginalised among us specifically black and brown kweer, (dis)abled, houseless peoples and put tha struggles of the migrant at the forefront of our struggle for a better world.

and when we organise ourselves 2 move towards life we combat w everything we've got manifestations of patriarchy/ableism/saneism/anti-blackness/fatphobia and abuse culture as they will be the downfall of any thing or movement we try create with our hands

everything we do must be a move towards **autonomy** (uno eye got da practical steps 4 ya)

we build bonds grounded in tha fact that our ***black bodies are borders everywhere we go*** and tha state uses borders 2 inflict hell on individuals and communities

none of us are free until all of us are free, freedom can't eva come from ballot box.

peace and one love.

jeremy corbyn ain't your saviour
tru say he neva was
we try contort messiahs out of mps
prophets out of celebrities
anything 2 find leader that'll take us 2 promised land
of milk and honey
but tha milk got contaminants
and the bees are dying
we're choking on tha fumes of burning world
our ancestors poke us with pins and needles
begging us 2 move
begging us 2 fight
turn ballot paper in2 ashes
parliament in2 war zone
we turn nation states in2 dead gods
blk flesh be tha nu divine.