

Vampire Weekend “Ya Hey”

<http://youtu.be/P8itnSsNxSg>

- 1 Oh, sweet thing, Zion doesn't love you,
- 2 and Babylon don't love you,
- 3 But you love everything.
- 4 Oh, you saint, America don't love you,
- 5 so I could never love you
- 6 In spite of everything.
- 7
- 8 In the dark of this place,
- 9 there's the glow of your face,
- 10 there's the dust on the screen,
- 11 of this broken machine,
- 12 and I can't help but feel
- 13 that I've made some mistake,
- 14 but I let it go- Ya Hey ¹
- 15
- 16 Through the fire and through the flames-
- 17 (Ya hey], Ut Deo , ya hey
- 18 you won't even say your name-
- 19 Ya hey, Ut Deo, ya hey
- 20 through the fire and through the flames,
- 21 you won't even say your name-
- 22 only "I am that I am"-
- 23 but who could ever live that way?
- 24 Ya Hey, Ut Deo, Ya Hey
- 25 Ut Deo, Deo
- 26 Oh, the motherland don't love you;
- 27 the fatherland don't love you,
- 28 so why love anything?
- 29 Oh, good God: the faithless they don't love you;
- 30 the zealous hearts don't love you,
- 31 And that's not gonna change
- 32
- 33 All the cameras and files,
- 34 All the paranoid styles,
- 35 All the tension and fear,
- 36 Of a secret career,
- 37 And I think in your heart
- 38 That you've seen the mistake,
- 39 But you let it go- Ya Hey
- 40
- 41 Outside the tents, on the festival grounds
- 42 as the air began to cool, and the sun went down,
- 43 my soul swooned, as I faintly heard the sound
- 44 of you spinning "Israelites " Into "19th Nervous Breakdown "
- 45
- 46 Through the fire and through the flames-
- 47 You won't even say your name-
- 48 Only "I am that I am."
- 49 But who could ever live that way?
- 50 Ya Hey, Ut Deo,

¹ Reference to Yahweh, the Hebrew name for God.

Music Analysis: Vampire Weekend's "Ya Hey"

The Basics: What are the following allusions alluding to?

1. Zion (line 1)-
2. Babylon (line 2)-
3. "I am that I am" (line 22)-
4. "Israelites" song (line 45)-
5. "19th Nervous Breakdown" song (line 45)-
6. "Ut Deo" is a Latin statement. What does it mean?

Textual Features

Where are the following seen in the text (write an example for each)?

7. Personification-
8. Parallel Structure-
9. Anaphora-
10. Rhetorical Question-

Point of View and Purpose

11. What is the dominant point of view in the song? Why did the author select this point of view?
12. Whom is the speaker referring to when he addresses "you?"

Tone

13. What is the tone of the song?

14. Identify FIVE words or phrases that help create the tone.

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Meaning

15. Yahweh is the Hebrew name form “God.” Why might the speaker say “Ya Hey” instead?

16. What is this song about?

Music: Describe the music *and* melody during the following sections.

17. Verse (lines 1-6)

What does the music sound like? Does it fit the subject matter?

What does the melody sound like? Does it fit the subject matter?

18. Chorus (lines 16-25)

What does the music sound like? Does it fit the subject matter?

What does the melody sound like? Does it fit the subject matter?

19. Late in the song (lines 41-44), there is a break from the traditional structure (verse, bridge, chorus). What is the purpose of this section? And, explain a possible meaning behind the lyrics in this section (consider the transition from “Israelites” to “19th Nervous Breakdown”)

20. During the chorus, the words “Ya Hey, Ut Deo” are sung using a vocal effect. Describe the effect? Why did the speaker/musician use this effect during this section of the song?

Putting it All Together

Explain how the writer uses words and music to communicate the meaning of “Ya Hey.”