



The Great Debate

by The Liberated Grounds Collective

Angel Adams, executive producer

Kyrstin Young, creative director and choreographer

Transcript

Karimah: Your word is *America*.

Human: Can I have the definition please?

Karimah: A country that was not made for you.

Human: Can I have its origin?

Karimah: You.

March 2nd, 2020

11:59am

Human: [*whispers*] No! No! Let me out! Let me out!

The Dream: FBI, open up!

Mom: The greatest debate is always within. Go within to understand who you truly are. I love you.

News anchor: Tonight, Nashville lit up in the colors of the Los Angeles Lakers to honor Kobe Bryant and his daughter, and seven other people died yesterday in a helicopter crash in California. The Nashville Predators pause tonight for a moment of silence before their game. And dozens of people met in North Nashville tonight to share . . .

Human: What N the . . . ? A car?

Human: Nia! It's a tornado! [screams] WAKE UP!

March 3rd, 2020

12:45am

Human: Get dressed. We gotta go check on Mom.

Nia: I don't think that's a good idea.

Human: Let's not debate this right now. We've gotta go!

Nia: Don't panic. Don't panic!

Human: Grab the keys, Nia!

Nia: I can't find them!

Human: Got 'em. Let's go!

NewLee: Home is where the great debate lies. An apartment building on a gentrified street in an inner city, known as King Drive. Mmm... That was good

But we had said that part. Now there is more to say. You keep showing your silhouette to me. I get to see you and the you and(in) me. I see you at night, like the middle of the day. I see you in flight. I see you're in flight. Is it a lot of pressure? Now, I want to see how it feels.

Join the great debate.... For reals.

March 3rd, 2020

2:45am

Human: Mom?

Friend: Yo, yo, what's good? It's Ace. Y'all OK? I had to use this lady's phone real quick, man, lost mine inside the house. Yo, it's a disaster zone out here. They said it tore right through out Norf. Y'all good, though?

Human: Yeah, I'm trying to get to the hospital to make sure my mom's OK. All the streets are blocked from trees and poles being down. We've just been sitting here. Stuck, basically.

Friend: Man, I hope she's OK. We just out here checking up on people.

Human: Where y'all at? I'm trying to get to y'all.

Friend: We on the Ave., Twenty-Third. Just around the corner. Aye, yo, bring your mask, it's people out everywhere . . .

Nia: I guess no virtual school tomorrow.

March 3rd, 2020

6:45am

Human: [*phone rings*] Nia! It's Mom . . . Hello?

Mom: Hey, baby. I'm so sorry I'm just now able to get to you all. The power went out at the hospital, and it's just been crazy ever since. I had the neighbors check on you all. They said the house seemed to be OK, but they said that the car wasn't in the driveway, and so I figured you guys just went to Dad's house to get some rest. How's Nia holding up?

Human: Ma, it's crazy out here. We've been out here with Ace all morning helping folk out. It's terrible. His house got slammed.

Mom: [*coughs uncontrollably*]

Human: You OK, Mom?

Mom: [*coughs*] No, I'm fine. I'm just tired. It's been a long week.

Nurse: Ma'am? Ma'am. Ma'am, I'm so sorry to bother you, but your test just came back this week, and you just tested positive for COVID. So sorry.

Mom: He just said I tested positive for . . . [*collapses*]

Human: Mom.

Nurse: Ma'am?

Human: Momma!

Nurse: Ma'am!

Human: Hello?

Nurse: Ma'am!

Nia: What's going on?

Nurse: Hello? She just collapsed. Yeah, probably due to some dehydration and some fatigue, but no need to worry. We're gonna quarantine her here for a few days, so just take care of your family. She'll be OK, alright?

Human: No, she won't. I know how this thing goes, man. Man, y'all trippin'. I'm on my way.

Nurse: Yeah, unfortunately, sir, I'm so sorry, but we won't be able to let you see her due to the fact that she's contagious. I'm sorry.

Human: Are you serious? That's my momma. You can't just keep me away from her.

Nurse: Yeah, I'm so sorry sir. [*hangs up*]

Human: Hello? Hello? Man, what? Man, what is going on? This is crazy.

Nia: Hey, are you OK?

Human: Yeah, I'm good. Look, stay with Ace. I'll be back.

Nia: Where are you going?

March 3, 2020

9:00am

Little boy: Wakanda forever!

Group: Wakanda forever!

March 3, 2020

12:34pm

Human: Hey, what's that?

Protesters: No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace! No justice, no peace! Black Lives Matter! Black Lives Matter! Black Lives Matter! Black Lives Matter! Hands up, don't shoot! Hands up, don't shoot! Hands up, don't shoot! Black Lives Matter! Black Lives Matter! Black Lives Matter!

Angel Adams: We so Black

We So Black we are statements and movements and shakers
We are a mouthful and incomprehensible, even to ourselves

We so Black that when the sun shines our skin glows
Our melanin is deep like rivers
Our very veins run deep and long as the Nile

We so Black when we speak the world stops
We have superpowers
We procreate, cultivate, while others appropriate

We sooooooo Black

We so Black that we are both the art and the artiist
But the only thing ever to concern yourself with is how
disappointing life will be without such black coffee or black tea

We sooo Blackity, black, black, black

That when we smile in utter darkness, the stars come out

We are the sunshine stepping out into the world and coming through the door. They take our blackness as a threat.

Who are we? There is no debate cuz see, everything comes from blackness, even the start, the beginning was nothing but black.

Who are we? There is no debate cuz see, everything comes from blackness, even the start, the beginning was nothing but black.

March 3rd, 2020

8:20pm

Vice President Kamala Harris: We did it. We did it, Joe. You're gonna be the next president of the United States.

Human: [*blows out candle*]

The Dream: This area must be evacuated now. This area must be evacuated now. This area must be evacuated now. If you can hear this message, evacuate now. If you can hear this message, evacuate now. [*explosion*]

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