

Muslimgauze

Muslimgauze, Bryn Jones, was a British ethnic electronica/ experimental musician whose music was influenced by problems and conflicts within the Muslim culture although he never was Muslim or traveled to a Muslim country. His pieces as stated would revolve around conflicts writhing Muslims and would showcase this with the use of instruments or naming or the piece of music. Regarding his discography, he had 96 titles until his posthumous discography came out which had reused some tracks but also included new pieces of music.¹

On one song "Tariq Aziz", which is named after the minister of foreign affairs of Iraq, Muslimgauze use of instrumentation is bare, the high end frequency of the sound of each instrument seems to be cut and the kick is very distorted. I can assume that Muslimgauze uses these effects in order to give a gritty feeling for the message but also the fact that the whole piece is looped but what changes is the effects. To add there is also white noise added in the back. Muslimgauze also adds Middle Eastern strings wishing the song to almost remind us that the song's message is towards the Muslims and not a general EDM piece. Tariq Aziz almost felt like a passion project for the people instead of it being for the ear as if Bryn tried to limit himself to relate to how either Tariq Aziz was treated in prison or how the Americans treated Tariq regarding oil whilst he was still in power.

Another track called Oil Prophets, which has 3 parts, showcases a different approach. That being the start having a build up and including backing vocals of middle eastern origins, people either in a market or a public area. The instruments once again include Middle Eastern strings which would sometimes be played in reverse, aswell drums are played but more accompaniment are included like bells and percussions. The structure is not as looped compared to Tariq Aziz as it has more energy at the start due to the kicks being played in a fast rhythmic style. As the song progresses, crashing/exploding noises start playing, this could be either an effect or a message from the track, that being a war over oil against the Americans. Six minutes in the song switches to part two subtly. The drums are more calming sounding like bubbles being formed, the strings stop but the backing voice is still heard. A buildup is made to which a hi hat is played once every half a beat. The build up then focuses only on the drums and slowly cures the vocals.

Noises are again played which sound like something is being scraped and new vocals are played which is of someone singing. A synthesizer is added giving a dark feeling to part 3 of the song which in my opinion showcases "war" happening between the Americans and the Middle Eastern country for their oil.

Overall Bryn was a advocate of Muslim people showcasing the problems and feelings towards other people and cultures.

¹ Muslimgauze (no date) Discogs. Available at: <https://www.discogs.com/artist/484-Muslimgauze> (Accessed: November 17, 2022).

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