

The song *Buffalo Soldier* was written by Bob Marley and Noel Williams in 1980.

The Buffalo Soldiers was the name given to the African American soldiers who fought in the 10th Cavalry during Native American conflicts in 1866. The Native American tribes gave them the nickname because their dark skin and dark curly hair reminded them of the buffalo. The African Americans were also strong.

The first verse of the song tells about how the Africans were brought here against their will. They had to fight to survive from the moment they came to this country. Initially, they fought just to stay alive. Later on, they were forced to fight the war for America and kill the Native American people.

In the song, Marley sings, "Then you wouldn't have to ask me, Who the 'eck do I think I am." He is speaking out for the African Americans who aren't treated as equals. The Buffalo Soldiers who fought to help build the United States were not treated as equals. The answer, "I'm just a Buffalo Soldier...win the war for America" reminds us that the African Americans were instrumental in building America.

Buffalo Soldier by Bob Marley

Buffalo soldier, dreadlock rasta:
There was a buffalo soldier in the heart of America,
Stolen from Africa, brought to America,
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival.

I mean it, when I analyze the stench -
To me it makes a lot of sense:
How the dreadlock rasta was the buffalo soldier,
And he was taken from Africa, brought to America,
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival.

Said he was a buffalo soldier, dreadlock rasta -
Buffalo soldier in the heart of America.

If you know your history,
Then you would know where you coming from,
Then you wouldn't have to ask me,
Who the 'eck do I think I am.

I'm just a buffalo soldier in the heart of America,
Stolen from Africa, brought to America,
Said he was fighting on arrival, fighting for survival;
Said he was a buffalo soldier win the war for America.

Dreadie, woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy.....

Buffalo soldier troddin' through the land, wo-ho-ooh!
Said he wanna ran, then you wanna hand,
Troddin' through the land, yea-hea, yea-ea.

Said he was a buffalo soldier win the war for America;
Buffalo soldier, dreadlock rasta,
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival;
Driven from the mainland to the heart of the Caribbean.

Singing, woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy...

Troddin' through San Juan in the arms of America;
Troddin' through Jamaica, a buffalo soldier -
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival:
Buffalo soldier, dreadlock rasta.