

## Deep Down Tidal

By Tabita Rezaire

Transcribed by Grace Matetoa

[Intro: Song: Ain't Your Mama – Jennifer Lopez]

*I ain't gon' do your laundry, I ain't your mama.*

Womxn 1 on phone: Hello my friend. I'm good and you?

Break

Womxn 1 on phone: Oh, actually I'm not good. It's this internet thing; this Facebook thing, Yes, you know. No my friend, its like I posted something about the white people saying they should give our land back, you know?

Break

Womxn 1 on phone: Yes. And they've banned me from Facebook, can you believe it?

Break

Womxn 1 on phone (voice over) : They are trying to make us dumb or something like that, I don't know. This is, eh, racism, this is really not good. It is like they are not treating us equally. They are not treating us like human beings... Ah and this data thing. It really needs to fall you know. Well yes because we are wasting our money and buying data instead of buying cold drink and a dress or bread or something like that.

Break

Voice from the Sky (Overhead Electric Voice): Electronic Colonialism is the domination and control of digital technologies

by the West to maintain and expanse their hegemonic power over the rest of the world. \*Sardar warned us in 1995: “The West desperately needs new places to conquer. When they do not actually exist, they must be created. Enter cyberspace.” Electronic colonialism is one of the many ways colonial domination survived after its defeat. While settler colonialism was the policy and practice of acquiring, controlling, occupying and economically exploiting land and labor – which by the way is still a thing it is just called capitalism now – Electronic Colonialism seeks to influence and control the mind through the digital device. It also operates by sustaining the dependency of former colonized countries on the West, by the importation of hardware, software, engineers, know-how and information protocols. These create a set foreign norms, values, and expectations that alter and marginalize local cultures, languages, habits, values, and lifestyles in favor of US-Eurocentric knowledge. Many countries in the global south have become ‘electronic colonies’ that are force-fed information generated by the Western world. Under the guise of globalization, the information revolution has become a vehicle for cultural westernization.

Text: Cyber slaves!

Break

[Song: Do You Know – Enrique Iglesias]

Womxn 1 to camera: (singing along to the song) *Do you know what it feels like, loving someone that’s in a rush to throw you away? Do you know what it feels like* – (stops mid-sentence) you don’t know Enrique Iglesias (mispronounces surname)? (Laughs)

(Song continues and she sings along)

*If birds flying south is a sign of changes...*

Break

Voice 1 from the Sky: The Internet is exploitative, oppressive, exclusionary, classist, patriarchal, racist, homophobic, transphobic, fatphobic, coercive and manipulative. The Internet reproduces the west's offline racial, economical, political, and cultural violence and domination, legitimized behind the idea of modernity and technological advancement.

Break

Voice 2 from the Sky: State of the art cable installation vessels, takes us through the initial phases of a shore end landing operation, plough deployment and burial of a submarine fiber optic cable.

Break

The perpetrators of slavery and colonialism tried (and still try) to defend and justify themselves with the civilizing mission rhetoric: "We brought culture and modernity to the savages" pretending their new trade routes were connecting to the new world." In reality all they did was to steal land, massacre indigenous population, exploit resources and workforce to increase the wealth of the Empires. Same story with the Internet: Multimedia giants claim: we are connecting people to each other, while underneath they steal and exploit our data, our free labor to increase the wealth and power of their media empires

Break

Womxn 1, sings to the camera in vernac.

Break

Womxn 2, speaking into camera: Its one thing to have bread; its one thing to have water; its one thing to have appropriate water, clean water. When rainwater falls, especially the first rain, there's already pollutants in the atmosphere so they wash/it rushes down, it falls on the roads, it sits on the roads, it sits on the current dirt.

That's the pollution, isn't it? It carries oils, it carries everything that you have in it along its path – water carries everything along with it on its path. Water is not the way it used to be because of industrialisation. We like industrialisation. Everybody wants life easy. What [it] is aimed at doing is making life easy or quicker. Um, so we have cars to go here quickly – we don't walk. We have washing machines to clean our plates – we don't want to wash them. We want the best convenience. We want things to be done. But well there is a cost. It takes off the natural; it takes off what we're supposed to take naturally. For me, that's the price you pay. Because all what we call pollutants or so you see in waste water or domestic water – everything put in there is something that has been man-made

Break

Womxn 2, still speaking into camera: But what I believe is that water is holy when you pray for it and it makes us to bring out living water. It makes our voice, our sound, something that can cleanse. Our actions to cleanse, our lives to cleanse. You know – to be alive, they speak much more that ordinary things. You know, whenever water passes somewhere it leaves a trace. There is no way you can put water somewhere without a trace.

Break

Every single person has a responsibility. And it is that consciousness of the fact that “whatever I do now affects my tomorrow” and your tomorrow is not necessarily what belongs to you. There's a generation coming ahead. You whatever little effort you make no, affects the generation that's ahead. Affects not just – when you have to deal with water, it affects not just the people, it affects the soil, it affects the ground, it affects the plants and it is a whole life cycle... *I pray...* that out of you will flow rivers of living water.

[Ending: Womxn singing a French Guyanese Creole and English song about the spirit of water]