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Lee 'Scratch' Perry - Revelation



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Revelation is a collection of new songs and finds Scratch sounding more involved than he has with some recent releases on which his voicings occasionally seemed perfunctory or poorly edited. Over the years a lot of marginal performances by Scratch have been marketed, and many fans eschew certain works or whole periods of his career. But with Revelation Scratch comes close to the beyond-reggae electronic world music highlights of his Time Boom X de Devil Dead (1987; re-issued in 1994 and 2001 with extra tracks). Keith Richards and George Clinton appear on one song each, Clinton sharing vocals and composing credit with Perry on Scary Politicians, a dubbed-up skank with self-explanatory lyrics; and Richards contributes a signature guitar part to "Books of Moses." But the highlight of the album, both lyrically and sonically, is a jazz-tinged disquisition on the late Michael Jackson titled "Freaky Michael." The smoky sax part (played by Tim Hill) snakes in and out of the mix as Scratch's vocals chide Jackson for apparently turning his back on his black heritage. The tone is gentle, if pointed, and the music evokes memories of earlier horn-infused Scratch collaborations with the likes of Tommy McCook and Vin Gordon. The set list is:

- 1. Revelation, Revolution, and Evolution
- 2. Used to Drive a Tractor in Negrille
- 3. Firepower
- 4. Holy Angels
- 5. Scary Politicians
- 6. Let There Be Light
- 7. Books of Moses
- 8. Money Come and Money go
- 9. Psalm
- 10. Run for Cover
- 11. Freaky Michael
- 12. Weatherman
- 13. An Eye For an Eye