

AK

STOP

B

glory

reality

semblance

truth

EVER
FOREVER

RA

a

imaginary

stipitate

artificial

ALEX

R

LEGONS

hive

mind

15



DARK CHRIST

by

ALEX RUSHFIRTH

G 1 O R Y _ B _ 2 _ T H 3 _ B A N K (P a r t I I I)



*** Preface ***

I am writing this on the 29th of December 2023, more than a year after the album was finished. It is a collage of thoughts and ideas and memories of the record with photos taken at the time. I hope it is more interesting than not and if not elucidating then entertaining but if you find it tiresome please stop and enjoy the record without any of this retroactive commentary. These are just some stray ideas: the intentions behind the work, as with all works, remain a mystery lol.

Many blessings,

ARO x



*** The Title ***

I knew the record was going to be called **DARK CHRIST** from early on and couldn't shake it off.

A year later I tried to unpick it a little to find it's really just a pun that allowed me to bring together a lot of things I was thinking about at the time. I guess this is just a bunch of breadcrumbs...

DARK NIGHT: John of the Cross's concept of the Dark Night as passive purification in mystical development.

DARK KNIGHT: Frank Miller's 1986 Batman comics and the idea of a double life of the corporate businessman and the masked vigilante

CHRIST: Not a historical Jesus but the theological concept of Christ being the revelation of 'Humankind's eternal oneness with God'.

ANTI-CHRIST: the deceiver, the denier, the false that takes the place of the Truth.

All these things have a mystery of a fusing of a duality, but a blurred one that problematises the concept of duality itself into an unknowing.

This being the third record in a trilogy of albums, the others with geographic locations names "YORKSHIRE" and "LONDON", implies that the "DARK CHRIST" is a distinct location (on the eternal form of The Logos?!?! ahah).



*** The Artwork ***

The art was designed as a giant patchwork of fictional textbook illustrations that was created by knitting together 250 separate images ranging from scanned works, photos, ML spawned works, hand drawn illustrations, vector graphics and typography.

I wanted the whole image to be completely overwhelming with no one image taking precedence of another.

There is a selfie image behind all the patchwork illuminating the image in fluorescence.



1 - The Fire

*“The Birdman singing London’s burning
oh we’ve got nothing but the fire”*

The house I was living in had a problem with the electricity so all the recordings I made had a complex patterns of noise and hum on every channel. I just sort of leant into it and wanted to make a loud, noisey and fast paced record.

In addition to this my laptop broke in the months before so I didn’t have access to my normal ways of recording so had to make do with my work computer which I couldn’t install anything on so I had a very limited palette of sounds and effects to choose from with no ability of recording electric guitars due to the hum.

The song is pretty simple pop song with lyrics about the feeling of something uncanny but of a complete mental state of unknowing. Beyond morality, beyond concept, a fire.

The drums are me tapping pencils on my desk and recording it with my phone.



2 - Who's Doing This

“Love is not consolation. It is light.”

~ Simone Weil

Had some initial ideas for this around the time of the Hollow Man but it didn't feel in keeping with the way that project was going. I returned to it after I wrote the song “The Fire” as I wanted to go straight to the sonic equivalent of an all encompassing fire straight after the song ended.

Wrote the lyrical idea in the interval of a Nick Cave show. I don't go to many gigs as I find them overwhelming and I don't feel able to keep up with what's going on and this was no exception. Again the lyrics focus on a blurred sense of agency and an ultimate sense of unknowing.



3 - Fiesta Freestyle

“When bad things happen, I know you want to believe they are a joke, but sometimes life is scary and dark. That is why we must find the light.”

~ BMO

Kickstarted the recording of the record. I saw the full moon out of my window and the energy took me. I had just received the Microcosm delay pedal as a gift to myself for my birthday so to try it out I did an extended jam with that for 20 minutes and then put on my headphones and went on a walk under the moon listening back and getting together a kind of flow.

I bought a pomelo CBD drink and saw a car called a “Fiesta Freestyle” and knew that’s what the song was going to be called.

The drums on the track are me hitting the empty can and the sound of a miniture toy van’s wheels rolling around my desk.



4 - Daylight

“Evil is the starry sky of the good”

~ Franz Kafka

Tonality and rhythm are ultimately the same thing at different speeds. Daylight is built from two sped up rhythms, one symmetrical and ordered with the other asymmetrical and disordered creating two contrasting chords.

I did the first half of the track for the “LONDON” album but when I started making “DARK CHRIST” I knew that the song could go up a couple more gears.

The song talks about peoples complicity and culpability in violence and the responsibility that comes with clarity this.



5 - The Golden Spade

“G1ORY_B_2_TH3_BANK”

An eponymous drinking song sung at the secret pub under the Bank of England called “The Golden Spade”.

Instrumental make from a voice memo of me improvising with one of those Yamaha keyboards with 1000 sounds using the bagpipe sound and some clave beat. Slowed the whole thing down and saturated it.

Fight fire with fire.



6 - I'm In The Business Of Forgetting

“Just as the cloud of unknowing lies above you, between you and your God, so you must fashion a cloud of forgetting beneath you, between you and every created thing. The cloud of unknowing will perhaps leave you with the feeling that you are far from God. But no, if it is authentic, only the absence of a cloud of forgetting keeps you from him now. Every time I say “all creatures,” I refer not only to every created thing but also to all their circumstances and activities. I make no exception. You are to concern yourself with no creature whether material or spiritual nor with their situation and doings whether good or ill. To put it briefly, during this work you must abandon them all beneath the cloud of forgetting.”

~ Anon (The Cloud of Unknowing)

I'm In The Business Of Forgetting is the last track I recorded for the album. I was completely wiped but knew I needed one big closer. I layered fast cello drones onto an electronic folk beat. This is the only song with guitar on which is a nylon string detuned to get this flapping like low sounds.

Throughout the album I was drinking a lot of sweet energy drinks and constantly vaping those icy menthol disposables that give you overwhelming nicotine rush and brain freeze and wanted to capture what that felt like on this song. After finishing I thankfully stopped this diet (ahah).



French Football

FRENCH FOOTBALL IS TEETERING ON THE EDGE OF COLLAPSE.
These days the French national side doesn't seem like a team with a purpose and of aspiration which the majority of the population shares. It is structural. It is striking that an external factor, such as the World Cup, is the only thing that has been able to lift the spirits of the French football fan in France. There has been a recession in the football industry since the 1990s. There has to be a reason for this. The fact that the French football industry has been able to survive for so long is a testament to the fact that the French football fan is not just a fan of the game, but also a fan of the social fabric. The fact that the French football fan is not just a fan of the game, but also a fan of the social fabric, is a testament to the fact that the French football fan is not just a fan of the game, but also a fan of the social fabric.

7 - BB's Magical Piano

*“I have often been sorry that I have spoken,
never that I have been silent.”*

~ Abba Arsenius

AK

STOP

B

glory

reality

semblance

truth

EVER
FOREVER

imaginary

artificial

ALEX

R

hive

mind

15

