Late last year Ubiquity was approached by the mysterious Misled Children about another project from Clutchy Hopkins, the man they claim to represent. A vintage Caribbean tracksuit jacket was found in the office fridge, and written in permanent marker on the inside right arm was a request for a meeting where we would “get another piece of the Clutchy Hopkins puzzle.”

To get the full story of how this album, and an accompanying journal, ended up in our hands you’ll have to read it at our website. Cutting a long story short, we recently acquired a bag of 2-inch reels that contained the dusty, dubbed out Clutchy Hopkins tracks on this LP. Take a pinch of Hopkins deep musical madness and add a sunshine-blessed dubbed-out twist, and that is “Music Is My Medicine.”

The journal contained stories of Clutchy Hopkins, and his move to Barbados. The dates of the stories were vague but span the late 1970s through the early 1980’s. Hopkins had moved there in search for a medicine man, who also hand-made percussion instruments, named Lord Kenjamin.

Hopkins searched for several weeks, tricked on several occasions into dead ends by the local children. “The children enjoy confusing me with directions that lead me back to where I started. It is like a daily joke,” he wrote, “One day they tell me to head east, the next west, and all with a suspicious smile.”

Hopkins almost gave up his search when he was bitten by a poisonous Lionfish. Passing out from the pain, he was dehydrated and in bad shape after laying in a side street for nearly 2 days. A group of the local children found him close to death. Feeling guilty that they had previously tricked him, the children carried Hopkins to Lord Kenjamin. For the next 3 months Hopkins was in and out of consciousness.

At this point in the journal the notes in the book have been ripped-out, we don’t know why. But the next page that is legible reads “With faint memories of a 4 track, deep-rooted beats, and a melodica, I have been brought back to health by the help of Lord Kenjamin and the music we made together. As a token of my appreciation I have promised the good Lord Kenjamin that the world would one day hear these recordings. The music has made a huge impact on our spirits and health during this time. We will call this record Music Is My Medicine.”

1. The Old Spot
2. Brother John
3. Cold and Wet
4. Riff Raff Rollin
5. Lord Kenji
6. Doty’s Leslie
7. Tune Traveler
8. Shadowfish
9. Gourds of the Desert
10. Turtle Rock
11. Heavy Hands

Also Available: Clutchy Hopkins and Shawn Lee “Clutch Of The Tiger” (URCD235) and Clutchy Hopkins “Walking Backwards” (URCD221) 10% Off CD from 03/03/09 to 04/21/09.

For fans of: The Lions, YNQ, Mulatu, Lee Scratch Perry, Jackie Mittoo

Recommended Ubiquity Titles:

Betty Padgett
CD/SLP

Shawn Lee
CD/LP

The Lions
CD/DLP

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