



## African Descent – The Terminology

Intro: When you say you're of African descent, some people don't understand what you mean. What don't know what the hell you're talking about. Being of African descent is also a term that people need to understand and we need to talk about it and explain it because we have Indians called the Siddis, who are also of African descent. It's possible let's talk about that.

Eddie. Can I get back to something you said earlier?

Apiyo: Yes.

Eddie: You talked about how like we. Black people especially, we express ourselves through dance,

Apiyo: through dance, song, physical activity..Yes

Eddie: that was something that resonated with me like, because I am Dominican and we love to dance. And umm yeah, we totally have the same thing, like...

Apiyo: Yes

Eddie: My favourite music genre from there is Bachata which is all about like heart break.

Apiyo: mmhhh

Eddie: And we talk about it but then we also like. There is something about physically exhausting yourself.

Apiyo: Exactly. Just like expressing your emotions through this physically exhausting stuff that just does it. It does it for me as well. It does it for me as well, I mean when I think am getting... and the corona has done that to me for a while to this point where. I just can't deal with it. I think am going to get depressed. I will put on some music and I will just dance and dance and dance. It not because am giving some kind of performance but I just need this physical exhaustion. And this. It works for me.

Eddie. Yes

Apiyo. You were saying also in the Dominican Republic you do this. By the way. Umm alot of people get really confused when they think of the terminology African descent. African Descent according to the terminology we are using, just means, somewhere in your ancestry, you have somebody who went through slavery, suffered the consequences, of this and as a result, you are still suffering. You know. For example, I am sorry to say but African Descent, the Boers we have in South Africa, they didn't suffer, the slavery consequences, so we don't consider them of African Descent, although they live in South Africa. African Descent, how we are using it and how this terminology is being used by the United Nation is you have to have suffered the consequences of slavery so, you are actually of African Descent. So, the fact that you love dancing, music and...releasing your energy like this, I think I know where it came from. Mmmhhh.. you know. So yeah

Eddie: I mean, yeah you look at the Demographic of the Dominican Republic and it's 80% black people living there. And what actually happen was the people who used to work. The indigenous people who used to live on the island, most of them were worked to death.

Apiyo. Oh wow.

Eddie: So, the colonisers had to import people from Africa so actually what we have now on the islands are actually, pretty sure mostly the descents of African even though most of the people living there wouldn't identify themselves as descendants.

Apiyo: Yeah that's the other thing we are working on. Because being of African descent is one thing. But nobody is going to force somebody to identify as being of African descent. That's your choice, you know. People have different reasons why they don't want to do this and so I don't even go there.

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