

## Simon Says

Transcript Export

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## Omni MC & Cedric Clinton: Artist Reflection for American Muslim Futures

FULL TRANSCRIPT (without timecode)

**Cedric:** Aloha, My name is Cedric Clinton and representin' the magical island of Oahu, Hawaii.

**Omni MC:** I'm Omni MC representing Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Omni MC:** First we would both like to say thank you for listening to our song "OptiMystic". This is our first collaborative piece. It is dear to our hearts. It means a lot to us to be able to share it with you. We choose to envision a future where all human beings evolve, to arrive at the realization that we are all truly equal and free.

**Cedric:** A just future is one where all people on this planet are treated with honor, love, and respect. Regardless of their race, ethnic background, religion, economic status, gender, or sexual orientation. Where we all have equal access to the resources that will allow us to live our best lives.

**Omni MC:** Philadelphia is a vibrant multicultural city. I was fortunate enough to experience this culture from a young age just by playing in the street or going to dance class. As I grew older, I began to sense Philly scenes always had a family vibe. Now as an adult, I get to continue to cultivate that experience within my community. When I came to Hawaii, I picked up on a similar type of energy.

**Cedric:** Yeah, growing up in Hawaii I was always surrounded by people, friends, ohana, from various ethnic backgrounds and cultures. You know I have friends that are Hawaiian, Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, African American, Laotian, Vietnamese, Irish, Indian, Native American, and so on and so forth. You know it's normal for all types of people from different backgrounds to be in the same room at the same time. Ohana, which in Hawaiian means family, is extremely important here in Hawaii. Regardless if you're related by blood, Hawaiian natives mostly refer to our elders as auntie or uncle, along with our peers as brother or sister. This is the type of kinship that we envision for the world in the near future.

**Omni MC:** "OptiMystic" is about envisioning a fresh, beautiful, and just future through the powers of perspective and intention. We wrote this song shortly after becoming quarantined together in Hawaii. We were inspired by our own desire to remain in high spirits and to keep a positive outlook.

**Cedric:** Some of the core themes in our song are optimism, creative visualization, law of attraction, self worth, solution based thinking, universal evolution, love, and light. The main questions it raises are, where are your thoughts and energy going to right now? Where would you prefer to direct them? In addition, are you using your powers of visualization, intention, and aligned action in order to co-create the future that you want to experience?

The American Muslim Futures exhibit is important because it is inviting artists and creators to think positively and create pieces of art that will shape a more beautiful and just future that we can all cultivate and experience equally together.

We created this song with the same intentions. Through most of the toughest times in history, some of the greatest works of art have been created. Art and music are extremely important because it can help heal and spark change.

**Omni MC:** We believe that change begins internally and spirals outward into our circles, our communities, our regions, continents, and so on and so forth. Ultimately, the vision is global, but the action is local. We hope the impact of this exhibit will inspire greater levels of consciousness and align action within the minds and hearts of everyone who has the opportunity to experience it.

**Cedric:** We want to say mahalo, thank you so much to Muslim Advocates and the Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture, and Design. We are deeply grateful for this opportunity and this amazing platform to express ourselves. Aloha.

**Omni MC:** Aloha, peace.

**Cedric:** Peace!