

# **“The Voice of Reason“**

**A Sketch For Saturday Night Live**

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## “The Voice of Reason“

This is the story of Cleofus Johnson, a Black Man who has lived throughout history warning historical figures not to do the things that have created our present world history. He has warned figures like Malcolm X, Japanese Leaders, as well as Jesus Christ. But his warnings have always gone ignored. – This sketch sheds light on the fact that before every bad decision there is a warning not to do it, and Cleofus is that “Voice of Reason.“

- The sketch begins with Cleofus sitting on a porch with some older people discussing how Cleofus’ nephew little Johnny is in jail again, And Cleofus says: “I warned little Johnny that he was goin’ to get in trouble hanging with those boys down on that corner, but don’t nobody listen to me.“

### (Quick Flashback)

Little Johnny is walking down the street going down to the block where all the thugs hang out and Cleofus is in the background on the porch yelling his ( Signature line ) to Johnny **“Don’t you take yo ass down there“**

(End of flashback)

- The discussion on the porch continues, Cleofus tells the elders “yeah, these young bucks can learn something from me if they listen, I been there” – “I warned ’em, I warned ’em all“
- Then Cleofus gazes up in the sky thinking back on the past – A series of Flashbacks begin.

### (1st Flashback)

Cleofus is sitting in a group of Malcolm X’s followers and Malcolm is discussing that he has been getting death threats, and that if he dies he hopes that they continue the struggle. Then Malcolm gets up to walk out on to the Audubon Ballroom stage to give his last speech and as he is walking toward the stage – Cleofus says, “Oh hell no“ and jumps up and yells to Malcolm **“Don’t you take yo ass out there“**

- Then we hear a loud gunshot (Boom!!!)  
(Flashback fades out)

### (2nd Flashback)

This begins with a Japanese general instructing his soldiers to bomb pearl harbor ( The instructions are in sub-titles at the bottom of the screen ) and they salute and cheer the general and the general says, “Go now and have no mercy“ – then we see Cleofus in the back of the room mopping the floor, and when he hears them say “Go now and have no mercy“ he says, “Oh hell no“ – **“Don’t you take yo ass over there.“**

- Then we see a film clip of the bomb being drop on Hiroshima.

**(3rd Flashback)**

This begins with Jesus sitting with his disciples discussing the prophecy as to how the son of man must go to Jerusalem to be crucified and when they finish speaking, they get up and begin walking down the road, then they pass Cleofus who is working assembling "crosses." And a fellow co-worker whispers in his ear "Jesus is going to Jerusalem to be crucified, then Cleofus says, "Oh hell no" and he drops his tools and yells to Jesus **"Don't you take yo ass down there."**

(Flash fades out)

- Then we come back to the present day on the porch, and Cleofus is shaking his head saying "I told 'em, I told 'em all"
- Then one of the elders says "Cleofus, you oughta stop wasting you breath, these young people don't listen to no old folks."
- And Cleofus says, "They gone listen one day, or they ass gone be in a world o' trouble."

**(Then we flash to the future – the year 2056)**

Here we see the president of the United States giving a press conference saying that they have made contact with aliens, and that he is going to have a peaceful meeting with them at Area 51 at 9am tomorrow morning. And a black man in the crowd sneaks out and runs down to the white house basement where Cleofus is stacking boxes, and he tells him of the news and Cleofus says "Oh hell no." He drops his boxes and storms into the W.H press room and yells out to the President **"Don't you take yo ass down there."**

- Then we see a film clip of a battle scene from the star wars movie.

Then we flash back to some humans dressed as slaves pulling a chariot filled with Planet of the Apes looking creatures, and the ape people are laughing at Cleofus, saying "You stupid Humans, ha ha ha"

Then Cleofus drops his head and says, "I told 'em, I told 'em all."

(Scene Fades out)

Then we see an out of space view of the planet earth, and a narrator begins to speak – in a William Shatner type voice:

"Through history, one man has been there 'Warning us,' but in our defiance we did not pay attention, and now we can only ponder the possibility that maybe, just maybe, humanity's fate would have somehow been different if we had only listened to that loud Hysterical cry of his....."

- And we hear Cleofus' voice (in echo )

**"Don't you take yo ass down there"**

End of Sketch