

It may seem like two limited extremes or a by-product of the gender binary, but further review of individuals under the “Bad Bitch” and/or “Queen” labels have stretched these spectrums over time, from daily life and pop culture to professional industries and socio-political work across gender and LGBTQ arenas. Each combine the elements of **“CREATE POWER TRANSCEND”** which Emma Lee champions as an artist, and which you see displayed in triangle and circle hieroglyphs throughout the video collage. The hieroglyphs also reference the root of all civilization via African¹ and Afro-centric studies where concepts of community, culture, power, royalty and gender roles originated and are centered.² These identities—used by men, women and all pro-nouns in modern time—are evolutions and recurrences of Hip Hop culture which is itself a direct descendant of African, African-American and street culture.

The African connection is vocally referenced from the “male” and “king” perspective by the legendary and highly regarded Hip Hop artist **Pimp C** at the beginning of the song.³ Ironically, the long held and controversial pharaoh “Hatshepsut,” a woman who posed as a man and successfully ruled over Ancient Egypt in place of the true male heir,⁴ further confirms the limitless nature of the female, “queen” etc. identities. Pimp C—known for his street-wise spirit music and wisdom laced lyricism, made his infamous statements during an interview following time served in a prison facility. If the intention of his words were to connect, liberate and encourage perspective, “Queens” indeed continues that aim.

Reconciling that it IS possible to be both, or even in not choosing to identify still reflecting these identities positively, it is the perspective of Emma Lee that they represent the following:

<i>“Bad Bitches”</i>	← →	<i>“Queens”</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitude, Energy • Visually Striking • Creative, Resourceful • Faith, Motivation • Understanding the “Game” (in front of and around you) • “Coming Through” • Mindset of Focus, Drive • Awareness • Stamina 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact, Effect • Mobility, Movement • Understanding the systems of “Game” (and leveraging your position) • ‘Crowning’ other Queens • Acknowledging humanity in others • Limitless, Will • Warrior, Creator • Estate Planner • Ambassador

¹ Diop, Cheikh Anta. *The African Origin of Civilization: Myth Or Reality*. Chicago Review Press. (July 1989): Preface.

² Oyebade, Bayo. *African Studies and the Afrocentric Paradigm: A Critique*. Journal of Black Studies, Vol. 21 No. 2. Sage Publications. (December 1990): 233-238.

³ Cheddartv. *Pimp C Exclusive Interview Fresh Home From Prison 2005*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENckrfzmXcs>

⁴ Callender, Gae. *A Critical Examination of the Reign of Hatshepsut*. Ancient Society (Australia) 18.2 (January 1988): 86.