

IRASCOM Journal

Inlversal Ras Tafari Community Journal

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Volume I, Issue 2

FREE

May 2005

Issue Preview



Elders of Rastafari

Priest Dermot Fagan

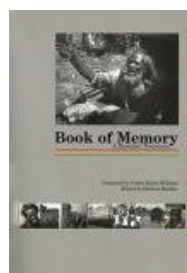
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Brothers' and Sisters'

Keepers

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May 2005



IRASCOM Journal ®

The Official Journal of the InIversal Ras Tafari Community

Thoughts and ideas explored in the IRASCOM Journal are that of the writer and not necessarily the position of the Journal or IRASCOM Cooperative Society Limited.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Let everything that hath breath praise JAH Rastafari!!

The ingenious plan of starting the monthly IRASCOM Journal may have seemed to some a small venture but to InI – and if I may speak on behalf of all those who have read the Journal's first issue – a fundamental element of blessing to the Rastafarian global community, which have whetted our appetites, filling us with anxiety causing great expectation for this second issue.

JAH Rastafari has opened the windows of heaven again to bestow upon us more blessings, satisfying our souls with more inspirational thoughts and words, taking us to even greater iritical realms. Let us take this time to acknowledge all the brethren and sistren who have joined hands and hearts, sweat and tears in fulfilling the monthly mission of making this IRASCOM Journal available to all in a timely fashion and a dream being realized.

The usual thanks and apprecilove is due to our managing editor Sister Issa Kelly and her wonderful staff, Sister April, Ras Aaron King-Napthali, Brother Joseph, Ras Marley, RasYen the public relations office, the interim steering committee, and the many contributing writers, journalists and photographers. As IRASCOM proceeds out of its formative stage into playing a more active role in the global Rastafarian community and in the daily lives of many Rastafarians I would like to take this opportunity to honor our leadership and the direction which has been chartered for IRASCOM to ultimately attain its goals.

Without much ado let's congratulate Ras Israel Berhane Mariam Smith who has spearheaded the vision of IRASCOM and transformed it from a dream to manifested reality. There is no better word to define our leader than with the words of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I - JAH Rastafari. He states that a leader is marked out by his individual craftsmanship, his sensibility and insights, his initiative and energy that raise the standards by which they judge themselves and also possess a love of high quality. Ras Berhane is very dedicated and dependable and always willing to take counsel from his people but acts on his intuition which always leads us in the right paths. He has won our trust by displaying an exemplary moral character, being a very hard worker and keeping the goodwill and cooperation of his team. He also gains respect for his self-discipline and moral restraint.

Our leader, Ras Berhane has managed to keep IRASCOM afloat amidst the tempests. While he is away doing exams and thriving to remain ahead we pray to JAH Rastafari to sustain his health and strength to keep up his good works. If I may quote His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I - JAH Rastafari "to be first in place one must be first in merits as well" therefore, we wish you all success in your endeavors Ras Berhane and on this note we present the second issue of IRASCOM Journal; enjoy it, support it, but most of all, do your Rasta duty to share it!

Yours Sincerely,
Ras Rohan Whyte
Executive co-chairman

Corrections

April Issue

Taking of The Locks

The footnote "The smoking of the hola herb is also present in the Sadhu tradition. Like Rastas, Sadhus use ganja (see the similarity to Ganges, the name of the holiest river in India, which takes its name from the Hindu goddess Ganga) as an aid in Iditation." Was made by Empress I-dra Iyah and does not reflect the thoughts of Ras Yen.

Health, Food and Nutrition

We did not reference the source of the recipes, which were "The Garden of Vegan" by Sarah Kramer & Tanya Barnard.

EDITORIAL PERSPECTIVE

Blessed Greetings Dear Readers,

What a blessed day for us to gather in love and respect! It is with great appreciation of the Idren that I work with on the IRASCOM Journal that I am happy to inform you that our very first issue has made it to The Bahamas, United Kingdom, Egypt, Ethiopia, Malawi, The Netherlands, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Croatia, Guyana, Jamaica, Canada and through out the US in cities like New York, Chicago, Austin, Sacramento, Kansas City, Portland, Asheville, the 'big island' of Hawaii and Maui and so many other places, either in print or electronically.

We have been so successful that there are other newsletters and magazines that are trying to duplicate our style. Ours are original works and that is what will make us the best of the best. The only items you will find duplicated from another source in the IRASCOM Journal are recipes (I wish we had our own chefs to create new recipes), historical speeches and the utterances of H.I.M. Haile Selassie. We reproduce the utterance of H.I.M. because they belong to us and we are his people, as his words are for all to enjoy, to gain physical and spiritual sustenance.

It was our intention to take a more in depth look at Prophet Gad's life and leadership in this issue. The Twelve Tribes Of Israel is recovering from the loss of their leader and we were unable to complete that article in this issue. We will be publishing the article in one of the future issues, when the TTOI community has had a chance to recover and speak to our writers.

The Journal was created for YOU! Yes, I am speaking directly to you. I encourage you to participate in this Journal, for it is a voice for all. You don't need to be a 'writer' to participate. We have the Rasta Reasonings section that anyone can contribute to with the following guidelines for topics: When you came to the conscious decision to follow Rastafari livity, scriptures that have a special meaning to you and **why** and the challenges you face as you trod your path.

The scripture section is also a place for us to exchange ideas and help each other as we trod. This month the scripture selection is my favorite for it was my part of my spiritual awakening.

You can contact the Journal at any of the address found on the back cover or you can contact me directly at the email listed below.

More Love
Less Fire,
Issa Kelly
IRASCOM_Journal_Editor@yahoo.com

COMMENTS ABOUT OUR FIRST ISSUE

BLESSINGS ON I&I SOULS !!!

I give I utmost thanks I-day as I read the 1st vol. of IRASCOM Journal !!!

I-day as I am reading it and going thru the pages I feel Jah-Spirit the Memphis Qiddus showering I, showering I&I peoples with HIM love, bring tears to I eyes. Even though I have not finished it due to being at work presently, it is heartical, truly. Great love to all kantributors! I can't wait to finish reading it, and make that nice Ital Pie Empress Idra-I recipe.

Blessed Love Iyahs
Iyesus fikur !
Sistren Jahmah
USA

Give Thanks for Thy Everlasting Work.
RastafarI Love to each & every one...

Ras Harold

Very exciting project. Finally a publication to teach and inform about Rastas around the globe. Thanks to those who have put in all their effort to make this journal a reality.

Sista G
USA

I'm only wear dreads as a hairstyle, but this spoke to me about things I need to change. It was amazing.

Eddie
USA

ELDERS OF RASTAFARI

By: Priest Dermot Fagan,
The Haile Selassie I School of Vision, Jamaica

Priest Dermot Fagan is the founder of Haile Selassie School of Vision located in the Blue Mountain region in the hills above Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies. The school and temple compound/community have been in operation for approximately six years and continues to grow and prosper yearly. He is a visionary who believes in baptism and teachings in the name of H.I.M. He also presides over Sabbath worship gatherings in Papine Park, Kingston JA every Sabbath Day rain or shine. All are welcome.

Priest Dermot Fagan Teaches on "The Mark of The Beast"

Blessings,

I, Dermot Fagan, the priest of the Most High God greet you in the mighty lightning and thunderous name of Emperor Haile Selassie I: the only recorded King of kings; Lord of lords; Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah and Power of the Holy Trinity. First of all, I want to establish by the Bible that God is black and for this I now release three unquenchable scriptures for my justification. In Jeremiah 8:21 God declares **"I am Black;"** in Daniel 7:9 a description of God includes his hair being as **"pure wool"** and in Revelation 1:14-15 there is a description of God which contains black characteristics such as wooly hair, red eyes, and bronze skin. At this point, I will also take the opportunity to point out that the abovementioned racial characteristics are not limited to God but also extend to the Son of Mary (see Isaiah 7:14). In regards to the Son of Mary, I would like to address the issue of the pronunciation of his name. In the Hebrew Bible (The Torah) Christ is referred to as Yashua or Immanuel; in the Greek Bible (Septuagint) he is referred to as Iya-sus Kristos and in the King James Version of the Bible he is referred to as JES-US the Christ. Now, let me take a moment to emphasize that to you that JES-US and GEE-ZAS should not be confused. The white man, internationally known as GEE-ZAS, whose images can presently be seen in churches, homes and on almanacs, especially those sold at Christmas - is Lucifer. Yes! Lucifer, Satan and the Anti-Christ are all titles for this same character. And for those that might question this discrepancy about a name, I recommend Ezekiel 39:7 as it clearly highlights the value God attaches to his name and the kindling of his anger at its pollution **"So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel;**

And I will not let them pollute my holy name anymore: And the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel."

For those who want to hear the truth, Jes-us

Christ the black God, that was crucified and raised on the third day had to come again through birth for the granting of salvation a second time. This prophecy was revealed to us when St. Paul by the will of the Holy Spirit uttered Hebrew 9:28, **"...for once Christ was offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation,"** making it necessary for Emperor Haile Selassie I to fulfill diverse

scriptures such as Isaiah 9:6-7 which emphasizes a throne and a government which Jes-us lacked by evidence. Also, Emperor Haile Selassie I fulfilled the prophecy of Revelation 5:1-5 and 1Timothy 6:15 sealing him as Jes-us Christ in his Kingly character.

Now, by divine order of the Almighty God Emperor Haile Selassie I the only King of kings and Lord of lords, the end is upon all flesh by the year 2007 equating 6000 Adamic Ethiopic years in respect to the Ethiopian calendar. It is also my duty to bring to your attention a grievous matter that needs to be settled and that everyone in authority worldwide has denied and presently is denying: the black people that are scattered in the West (captives) and those that remain (natives) in their continent are the Jews and the children of Israel - Amos 9:7, **"are ye not as the children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel?" saith the Lord.** The black people are ignorant of this fact yet it is a biblical and a racial factor seeing that Emperor Haile Selassie I is the head. The Queen of England by her mandate gave away Palestine in 1948 to a Zionist group who were referred to as the 'Gang of five' and it was from that time the land was referred to as Israel but the



Priest Dermot Fagan at HSSV Sabbath Services
Papine Park August 2004

Photo by: Israel Berhane Mariam Smith

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 - ELDERS OF RASTAFARI

WORDS OF WISDOM

Ride Natty

By: Brother Aaron King-Naphtali

"Dready got a job to do, and he's got to fulfill that mission. To see his hurt is their greatest ambition. But we will survive in this world of competition, 'cause no matter what they do, Natty keep on comin' thru. And no matter what they say, Natty de deh everyday. Natty Dread rides again, thru the mystics of tomorrow. Natty Dread rides again, havin' no fear, havin' no sorrow. All in all you see a gwan is to fight against the Rastaman. So they build their world in great confusion, to force on us the devil's illusion. But the stone that the builder refuse shall be the head cornerstone. And no matter what games they play. We've got something they can never take away. And it's the fire, the fire. Burnin' down everything. Feel the fire, the fire. Only the birds have their wings. No time to be deceived, you should know and not believe. JAH say this judgment could never be with water, so no water could put out this fire, this fire. Ride Natty Ride, go deh Dready go deh. Now the fire is burning out of control. Panic in the city. Wicked weeping for their gold. Everywhere the fire is burning. Destroying and melting their gold. Destroying and wasting their souls. So Ride Natty ride. Go deh Dready go deh. Go deh, go deh. Now the people gather on the beach, and their leaders try to make a speech, but the dread again tell them that it's too late. Fire is burning, man pull your own weight. Fire is burning, man pull your own weight. Natty Dread rides again. Go deh dready go deh. Go deh Dready go deh. Natty dread rides again. Go deh Dready go deh. Go Dread, go dread. Ridin' thru the storm, we ridin' thru the calm. Go deh, go deh. We ridin' thru the thick, and we ridin' thru the thin. Ride Natty Ride."

Ride Natty Ride - By Bob Marley ©56 Hope Road/Tuff Gong Records

Greetings! I was trying to find my Words of Wisdom for this month and I was discussing it with my wife, my Queen, and she said to I, "I thought you wanted to write about Bob Marley's song 'Ride Natty Ride?'" Right then it hit and I believe that JAH gave I the message he wants I man to relay through this song. And I'm more than happy to do it.

There are a couple reasons why this song is important to I man.

#1. I think the song is a great Rasta song explaining that we all have a mission to fulfill, and that Babylon will try to stop us, "but no matter what they do, Natty keep on coming thru". #2. I really enjoy the song. I enjoy this song because it reminds I that, no matter what anyone says, I know I have a mission to fulfill. I believe that this song is sent to be a reminder of that. I and I all have a mission, our own mission.

Personally, this song gives I strength when Babylon tries to tell I, that I don't belong. I know the divinity of H.I.M. and no man can tell I that I do not belong. It is JAH will that I am sent to reason with the Idren. Let JAH will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. It carries I when I own Idren suggest that only hamitic peoples belong. Because I know through H.I.M. words that I and I

are not to divide by race as Babylon wants. H.I.M. words tell us that we are not to use the differences in skin colour to distinguish who is and who is not JAH JAH children.

Selassie I said to I and I:

"Above all, Ethiopia is dedicated to the principle of the equality of all men, irrespective of differences of race, colour, or creed....We extend the hand of universal brotherhood to all, without regard to race or colour, so we condemn any social or political order that distinguishes among God's children on this most specious of grounds."

So let's break this song down and see how we can gain more insight from it. "Ride Natty Ride" says: "Dready got a job to do and he's got to fulfill that

mission, to see his hurt is their greatest ambition. But we will survive in this world of competition, cause no matter what they do, Natty keep on comin' thru, and no matter what they say, Natty de deh everyday. Natty dread rides again, thru the mystics of tomorrow. Natty dread rides again, havin' no fear, havin' no sorrow."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 - WORDS OF WISDOM



Bob Marley – 1978 Berkeley, CA – USA

Photo By: Jeff Cathrow
Courtesy – Proud Galleries
www.proud.co.uk

POET'S CORNER

Color Vision

By: Exiled W.A.R.

(...so the man say... we need to be color blind."
But...i tend to see it a little differently than most folks..
i-man never wanna be "blind" to anything...
eyes wide open...Yuno?...so...
as i see it...)

say are we blind to the colors of the rainbow / are we
blind to the blue of the sky / do we close our eyes to
the green of the trees / then why be blind to you and i
/ so i say.. Color Vision / my decision / in evry mission
/ no division / but i gotta do it / wid Color Vision...color
vision yeah...

see...
forget the past an you will always repeat it / if ya dont
see a problem then how can you beat it / the blind
lead the hungry but who will feed em / signs of the
times, but who will read em / wid dis Color
Vision..color vision i say ..yea--
ah..

all the leaders pick a spot in this
his-sto-ree point the peoples
eyes there an they say look see
/ your past is your present ,
what else could it be / take it
ALL the way back an tell me
what you see / wid Color
Vision..color vision..i say..yea--
ah..



New Zealand - Race Unity Day
Courtesy of www.hrc.co.nz

now up-on whose back was the
system built / whose blood was shed
as they stole the wealth / an who still pays evry
day...in ev-e-ry way / Only the TRUTH will lead to that
brighter day..so i say..
Color Vision..

i-and-I could never be blind to any of Creation's signs /
Color Vision / blindness causes a collision / Color Vision
/ my decision / in evry Mission / Color Vision / no
division / but ima do it / wid Color Vision yeah...

Mama Afrika bleeds like a Sister denied / innocent
blood that none can hide / ya ever looked into the
eyes of a child de-prived / how could you ask that
child to be color-blind..nah nah nah nah
Color Vision ..i say..Color Vision yeah..

Mi-nor-i-tee ...the population all know / still a ma-jor-i-
tee sits up-on death row / an how many sent to save
money and time / by a judge and a jury try-in to be
color-blind.. Color Vision i say ..Color Vision yea--

ah..are we blind to the colors of the rainbow / are we
blind to the blue of the sky / do we close our eyes to
the green of the trees / then why be blind to you and
i..Color Vision yeah yeah yeah..

say now the seed of one is the seed of the other /
sister my Sister , Oh..brother my Brother /
in dis ya cycle of life one will be another / now when
the tables turn who will run for cover / an who will
use...Color Vision..color vision..i say yeah..

every Color is just a beauty mark / from the lightest
light to the darkest dark / never meant to take us so
far apart / simple meditations from One Heart..

an evry time dem an dem try to drive that wedge /
they best to look into the eyes of the Children of the
Bridge...

seh their destiny lies in the eyes
...of the Children...of
the...Bridge...
yeah their destiny lies with the
Children of the Bridge...
Color Vision yeah...yeah ..yeah..

say are we blind to the colors of
the rainbow / are we blind to the
blue of the sky / do we close our
eyes to the green of the trees /
then why be blind to you and i /

why be blind to i-and-I / Color
Vision...i say...Color Vision..on my
Mission / No Division / but i could
never be blind / to any of Jah Jahs signs / i-man
say...Color Vision..

Color Vision..i say..
no blind-ness..your Highness...
HIM say...
That until the color of whaa ?...i -and-I say ...until the
color of whaaa ?...is of no more whaaa?...there will
always be whaaa ?...

hey...color vision
HEY !..Color Vision..
Vision yeah..
Color Vision..yea--ah..

(((No blindness needed..
Visions needed..
Jah Love All..
ex))) © 2003

FACES IN HISTORY

Nelson Mandela

Eleven years ago in May Nelson Mandela took his rightful place as the State President of South Africa. His inaugural speech gave voice to the long hard struggle for equality and justice in South Africa and around the world for the African Diaspora; the struggle continues. Let us take moment to reflect on the words spoken to empower a people, a nation, a world.

NELSON MANDELA'S ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF CAPE TOWN, GRAND PARADE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INAUGURATION AS STATE PRESIDENT Cape Town, 9 May 1994

Mr. Master of Ceremonies,
Your Excellencies,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
My Fellow South Africans:

Today we are entering a new era for our country and its people. Today we celebrate not the victory of a party, but a victory for all the people of South Africa.

Our country has arrived at a decision. Among all the parties that contested the elections, the overwhelming majority of South Africans have mandated the African National Congress to lead our country into the future. The South Africa we have struggled for, in which all our people, be they African, Coloured, Indian or White, regard themselves as citizens of one nation is at hand.

Perhaps it was history that ordained that it be here, at the Cape of Good Hope that we should lay the foundation stone of our new nation. For it was here at this Cape, over three centuries ago, that there began the fateful convergence of the peoples of Africa, Europe and Asia on these shores.

It was to this peninsula that the patriots, among them many princes and scholars, of Indonesia were dragged in chains. It was on the sandy plains of this peninsula that first battles of the epic wars of resistance were fought.

When we look out across Table Bay, the horizon is dominated by Robben Island, whose infamy, as a dungeon built to stifle the spirit of freedom is as old as colonialism in South Africa. For three centuries that island was seen as a place to which outcasts can be banished. The names of those who were incarcerated on Robben Island is a roll call of resistance fighters and democrats spanning over three centuries. If indeed this is a Cape of Good Hope, that hope owes much to the spirit of that legion of fighters and others of their caliber.



We have fought for a democratic constitution since the 1880s. Ours has been a quest for a constitution freely adopted by the people of South Africa, reflecting their wishes and their aspirations. The struggle for democracy has never been a matter pursued by one race, class, religious community or gender among South Africans. In honouring those who fought to see this day arrive, we honour the best sons and daughters of all our people. We can count amongst them Africans, Coloureds, Whites, Indians, Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Jews - all of them united by a common vision of a better life for the people of this country.

It was that vision that inspired us in 1923 when we adopted the first ever Bill of Rights in this country. That same vision spurred us to put forward the African Claims in 1946. It is also the founding principle of the Freedom Charter we adopted as policy in 1955, which in its very first lines, places before South Africa an inclusive basis for citizenship.

In 1980s the African National Congress was still setting the pace, being the first major political formation in South Africa to commit itself firmly to a Bill of Rights, which we published in November 1990. These milestones give concrete expression to what South Africa can become. They speak of a constitutional, democratic, political order in which, regardless of colour, gender, religion, political opinion or sexual orientation, the law will provide for the equal protection of all citizens.

They project a democracy in which the government, whomever that government may be, will be bound by a higher set of rules, embodied in a constitution, and will not be able govern the country as it pleases.

Democracy is based on the majority principle. This is especially true in a country such as ours where the vast majority have been systematically denied their rights. At the same time,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 - FACES IN HISTORY

HEALTH, FOOD AND NUTRITION

Terrific Tofu

By: Sister April

By now most people have heard of the nutritional value of tofu. Its benefits to our health, its ability to lower cholesterol, which in turn lowers our risk to heart disease. The possibility that the isoflavones may reduce side effects of menopause, as well as play a role in the prevention of cancer. It is ideal for those beginning a vegetarian lifestyle who need to be weaned away from meat products. Yet with all its benefits, quite often when I mention tofu to someone, they will make that 'grapefruit' face and say "It's too much trouble", "I don't know what to do with it", "I know it's good for me but... it tastes terrible", "the texture is very unappetizing." However, with some good recipes and a few simple steps of preparation you can have folks asking for your recipes and actually using them.

First of all, when buying tofu, be sure it has been refrigerated. If you are buying it in bulk from a health food store, be sure they are taking proper precautions. The water should be changed daily and customers should not be handling it directly but removing it from the large container with clean utensils. Just basic good hygiene measures as with any food. Be sure to check the sell by date no matter where or how you purchase it.

When I bring home tofu, I drain it thoroughly, place it back in its container, wrap it in plastic wrap or put it in a plastic bag, seal it tightly and pop it in the freezer. After freezing at least overnight, I remove it from the wrappings and container and let it thaw in a colander. I then squeeze out the remaining liquid and finally pat it dry with paper towels. It should be dry and sponge like, ready to pick up any flavors it is prepared with. However, if you wish to use your tofu in some dessert recipes or recipes that require a creamy texture, just replace the water the tofu is stored in daily, until ready to use. Follow directions in your recipe as to how to prepare the tofu and you are all set. Look for the silken variety for creamy recipes or the tofu labeled "soft".



Below you will find a couple of recipes I have used often and really enjoy. They seem to be popular with others as well.

Tofuno Salad

1 lb firm or extra firm tofu. Drained and frozen (as above) for at least 24 hours.
 1 stalk celery, diced
 1 scallion (spring or green onion), minced
 ½ cup mayo (can use regular, fat-free, reduced fat or vegan varieties)
 2 tablespoons soy sauce (I prefer the low sodium variety – or Bragg's)
 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Thaw tofu and squeeze out moisture. Crumble into small pieces. Add celery and scallions. Blend well. In a small bowl, mix together mayo, soy sauce and lemon juice. Add to tofu mixture and mix well. I also sometimes add grated carrot when I add the celery and scallion.

Oven Barbeque Tofu

1 lb Extra firm Tofu, which has been drained and has had the moisture squeezed out. Freezing is not necessary for this recipe.

Sauce

1 small onion, chopped
 1 tablespoon oil
 2 tablespoons vinegar
 1 tablespoon Worcestershire Sauce (I found a vegetarian version)
 2 tablespoons molasses (unsulphured)
 5 tablespoons soy sauce (low sodium)
 1 cup tomato sauce

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Sauté the onion in oil until golden. Add the remaining sauce ingredients and simmer for 10 minutes. Oil a shallow baking pan and brush with a small amount of the sauce. Cover the tofu well with the remaining sauce and marinate for 30 minutes. Bake for 30 – 40 minutes or until the sauce dries on the tofu.

HEALTH, FOOD AND NUTRITION CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 – THE NAZARENE VOW

HEATH, FOOD AND NUTRITION

The Nazarene Vow

By: Empress I-dra Iyah

Numbers 6:1-4

"¹And JAH spake unto Moses saying, ²Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto JAH: ³He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried [raisins]. ⁴All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk."

When we are reasoning on matters of diet and Rastalivly, it is impossible not to make reference to the vow of the Nazarite, often taken in conjunction with the Rastafarl trod. Because this section of the Journal deals with food, InI will zero in on the dietary restrictions imposed by the vow. Not all Rastas have taken this vow and some are curious about exactly what it is referring to. Common questions may include, "do tomatoes grow on vines?" "how about zucchini?" and "what is a vine tree?"

The message in verse 3 is clear: No Alcohol of any kind! Fermented, strong, liquor - these words all point to getting drunk. According to the Nazarene vow, drinking is strictly prohibited.

As for vine products, grapes are clearly defined as being outlawed. Most likely because of their fundamental role in wine-making. If One is not allowed to consume grapes in any fashion, the likelihood of that One consuming wine is forgone. Some Rastas are on the fence when it comes to other fruits and vegetables like tomatoes and zucchini. Some will include these in their diets, while still others cleave tightly to



the literal commands making specific mention of "vines". Therefore, these steadfast Nazarites eschew all vine-growing fruits and veggies. The list includes: Zucchini, Cucumber, Melons, Peas and Tomatoes.



The vine tree, as described in verse 4 bears a remarkable resemblance to the cornstalk. "From the kernels even to the husk" seems to refer to corn. So, we add corn to the list of don'ts. That means popcorn, tortillas, and tamales are all prohibited.

While Ones may find these restrictions a bit 'hard to swallow', those who have taken the vow overstand the seriousness of self-imposed discipline, for that is what it means to be a disciple. The vow need not be a lifetime, but even simply a pre-determined period that One sets aside entirely to personal devotion to JAH. One can then be ever-mindful of their separation during this period. Every day becomes a reminder of just how much JAH means to us. This is the purpose of the Nazarene Vow: To overcome bodily attachments to food, in order to become Christ-like and grow closer to JAH. ✱

1st Annual
Northwest World Reggae Festival
Haile Selassie's Birthday Celebration



Horning's Hideout North Plains, Oregon
July 22, 23, 24 2005
Three Days of Music and Camping

FAMILY LIFE

Faith Fullness

By: RasYen

What a topic for InI to reason over. InI cannot expect to be able to get too deep into this reasoning, or be able to cover all aspects of the many ways Faith takes part in InI lives. The Hebrew word for Faith (Full), is 'Aman', close to Adam (which also means earth, red or ruddy, and InI can see that first man was the color of the earth/soil). Aman also means to nurture and care for, to be true, steadfast, to have brought up. InI can all see how JAH create man, and wombman to be his helper. By the name Adam (Aman), it is apparent that man was created to be Faith-Full.

I am a man, and can only speak as a man, so womb-man bear through the labor of these thoughts. InI are not here to judge another but InI selves, until InI be spotless.

InI have seen many examples of unfaithfulness in I life. Broken families where there is no structure or stability. It may be impaired or have been repaired or reestablished with additional members, as in divorce or in remarriage. This truly does affect the ties of a family, altering the relationship of the family from one that lives together Faith Fully, as JAH intended. The adjustment can cause hardships that come upon members of the family due to the resulting circumstances they may have little or no control over which may seem cruel and unfair.

Many grow up questioning their Creator asking for a reason. 'If He were truly loving, He would not make this to happen', they might say, ***"punishing the children for the sins of the father to the third and fourth generation."*** - Exodus 20:5. Man can see that these are the results of a relationship, an agreement, being breached. The terms of the agreement, either JAH-given - as internally engraved, or by "law" - as an externally signed document of a Marriage or a Partnership. Each requires trust, faith fullness, and often repentance and forgiveness. The relation InI have with InI Creator should be a good example of how InI relate to a Partner. Ivotion.

The Daughter of Zion is to be prepared as a bride for the Holy One of Yah-Rules-Iam. InI are called to the wedding feast. Many are called, few are chosen. Many that were invited have not responded, and so they will be replaced. His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Haile Selassie I, has come to show InI the way, for InI to emulate H.I.M. and strive to reach H.I.M. perfection.

Empress should emulate H.I.M.'s Faith Full Empress Menen.

The hardships InI face in personal relations are also from JAH, as a result of InI own actions, so that we may become aware of the fault in InI doings. Whether it is selfishness, neglect, or any form of wickedness, InI can look into the matter deeply, and know the effect is not the cause. Look for the source of the problem. JAH has helped I to identifying and resolve issues I have, often by sudden Inspiration. Being aware of the cause is vital in order to get it cleared up. By reflecting on what and how JAH tries to tell InI, the error of InI ways become apparent for correction. Many have been unfaithful. The rod of discipline is for InI perfecting in H.I.M. JAH love InI as a Father, and would not 'spare the rod and spoil the child.'

InI must know to live and learn that what has been done is done. InI must seek to improve, and leave behind what is unnecessary, moving on ahead with the benefit of the lesson from the experience.

Women stay by InI man. If he strays, he will face JAH correction. Men stay by InI wombman. Be an example of forgiveness, and remain faith full as JAH RasTafari created InI to be.

In the Book of Matthew verse 19:4-6, INI can see the Teachings of Yahshuah, regarding the union of man and wombman. "Haven't you read, that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female, for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one. There fore what JAH has joined together, let man not separate." When Yahshuah was asked why Moses permitted divorce in Matthew 19:8-9, He replied, ***"Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."***

The sexually immoral will be left outside the Gates of Zion see Revelations verse 22:15. Unfaithfulness may be a continual doubt about a partner's worth or adequacy, or whether they are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 - FAITH FULLNESS

MAY SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:37-50

³⁷ And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, ³⁸ And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. ⁴¹ There was a certain creditor, which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. ⁴² And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? ⁴³ Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. ⁴⁴ And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. ⁴⁵ Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. ⁴⁸ And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. ⁴⁹ And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Your Participation

As each of us sit down for our meditations the Bible speaks to us differently. We encourage you to join the scripture reasoning. You can contact us several ways.

Post: InIversal RasTafari Community C/O Jamaica Office - #2 Terra Cotta Close
Kingston 8, Jamaica, W.I

Email: IRASCOMJournal@Yahoo.com

Contact your local IRASCOM Ambassador; their contact information is located on the back cover.

April's Scripture and Readers Response

Psalm 1:4-6

⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. – Revised Standard Version

Sistren Jahmah – USA

JAH BLESS !!!

This is amazing,

One of I elders told I to start reading a Psalm a day this summer and this is the exact one I was going over today!!!!!!

Remembering that the wicked are like the chaff that is threshed out from amongst the wheat. We must also remember that I&I must keep our selves truly livicated to the Most High.

Our Strength is JAH! Our DEFENSE is in JAH!

And those who continue and unrepentant wickedness are but a piece of chaff that blow away.

Give thanks always

Kaya - USA

Blessed be di name of Jah,

Blessed be di name of di Most High

Di name of di Lord, is a strong tower, di RIGHTEOUS RUN INTO IT, AN THEY ARE SAVED...

RASTA YOUTH EDITORIAL

Education

By: Lij Marques Benjamin

“A strong nation and a free nation can only base itself upon education” – H.I.M.

Education is a bane in the day-to-day existence of any youth, Rasta or otherwise. Today's young people see school as a hindrance, a ball and chain. However, schooling is an extremely important subject and a critical tool in the development of a successful society. Haile Selassie gave the idren much wisdom on the subject; he considered education a topic of the utmost significance.

Not only is education a vital medium for knowledge and wisdom, it may also be seen as a weapon against the system and oppression by Babylon. Some would say that Babylon is present within institutions of higher learning, such as universities. While this may be true, the doors that are opened through advanced learning allow Babylon to be attacked at its very roots.

“These are crucial times when nations rise against nations, tensions increase and disaster is possible at any moment. Distances are shrinking. Peace and life itself are threatened by misunderstanding and conflict. Now is the time when man's relationship to God must be the foundation for all his efforts toward enlightenment, and learning the basis for understanding cooperation and peace.” ~ Haile Selassie I

Our ultimate goal is the fulfillment of JAH's will and the defeat of Babylon. We must strive to obtain for our children and for the glory of the Most High an Iniversal nation, founded on principles of peace, understanding, and goodwill. Education is our medium that allows the youth to overcome their limitations and widen their horizons.

Knowledge is to the mind what water is to the body. Through knowledge and learning we may grow as a people, as a culture, as a nation. In the course of history, revolutions have started in the mind. Thinkers, philosophers, and teachers have been the ones who instigated the waves of change. A lack of education has resulted in billions of oppressed people. They are blind for they know not the yoke that is placed on their shoulders.

“A well informed public opinion is essential to the growth of political and social awareness. Only he who is informed can comment intelligently on his nation's development and only by such comments can errors be corrected and progress stimulated” ~ Haile Selassie I

As a people who are livicated to Haile Selassie, it is our duty to foster education. We, as youth, must strive for excellence in all forms of learning. We must be aware of the fist of oppression that Babylon has placed on each and every individual, for this is our enemy. We all wear chains. The only question is, shall we break them or tolerate them? Tolerance is not an option. Our burden is not the shackles; it is the struggle to break the manacles that is the weight. Education is, through the Conquering Lion of Judah, our hammer and spike that are destined to shatter oppression.*

Donate A Book

Contribute to the literacy of OUR youth

**Do you have books that you would like to contribute to a good cause?
This is your opportunity!**



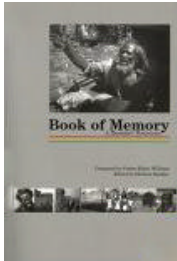
IRASCOM Education Committee is seeking your assistance in establishing a Cultural Resource Library and Research Center for the youths of Guyana.

We want your cultural and educational books, encyclopedias, CD ROMs, DVDs, VHS, Etc.

For more information please contact Ras Ashkar at:
lijethio@yahoo.com
or
rasahkar@msn.com

BOOK REVIEWS

By: Sista Irie and Issa Kelly



'BOOK OF MEMORY' A RASTAFARI TESTIMONY

BY PRINCE WILLIAMS, MICHAEL KUELKER

"Reasoning together, you [are] the words never written in a book. That's the heavens of man, transforming into higher courts." ~ Prince Elijah Williams

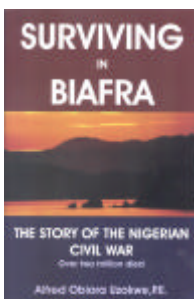
'Book of Memory,' narrated by Prince Elijah Williams, may well go down in history as the purest and most authentic representation of Rastafari reasoning ever written. The idea that 'yuh cyaan study di Rastaman' becomes self evident when reading through the magical stream of consciousness presented by this pure hearted Nyahman. Eloquence is in the l's and ears of the beholder. With Rasta, the complex language and artful delivery invites multitudes of microscopic leaps of faith, where knowledge becomes truth through spiritual acknowledgement. Absorbing the heart of Rastafari faith is a concentrated practice easily overstood by those with unbiased insight and a righteous inner soul.

One of the most crucial aspects of 'Book of Memory' is Prince Elijah's reminiscence of the Coral Gardens Incident. Rastas throughout the Caribbean shared this historical experience similarly. Although, a crucial part of Rastafarian history, one that contributed insight into the long term prejudice encountered by dreadlocks today, Jamaican literary sources rarely refer to these encounters which defined the attitudes and ignorance endured by members of the Rastafarian faith. Downpression of the Rastaman continues in a less dramatic, yet

equally disturbing, practice today. Prince Elijah additionally contributes substantial testimony concerning the atmosphere, views, and revelations of Rastafari bredren and sistren during the historic visit of His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie I. He recounts the crucial impact and reasonings embracing the island before, during, and after HIM's visit.

'Book of Memory' restores confidence in the universal truths of humankind, politically, sociologically and culturally. Prince Elijah relates his story with clarity, dignity and stark factual insight. The slight sadness imbibed in his story is equally uplifted by his ability to ignite JAH guiding light and eternal love of Rastafari livity. He confirms his devotion to the love of humanity by stating "Rastafari consciousness never leave me, mahn. Zion born integrity in man."

Written by Sista Irie
Writer, photojournalist
Host of The Conscious Party
88.7 FM, KAZI
Austin, Texas
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SURVIVING IN BIAFRA: THE STORY OF THE NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR – OVER TWO MILLION DIED **BY: ALFRED OBIORA UZOKWE, P.E.**

A mere six years since independence from the colonizers, a coup attempt primarily by senior Igbo army officers occurred in January 1966. This was taken as an attempt by the Igbos to dominate the Nigerian government. Many of the junior officers of northern origin staged a counter coup six months later. This was the beginning of the Nigerian civil war.

The first hand account begins in 1966 when Alfred is six years old and he diligently stays in the voice of a young boy through out the book. We are taken on a roller-coaster of events that has you worrying if sister Ijeoma will make her way

back home after the war has begun and how will this family survive.

Boy Scouts in the US was never like this. Alfred and his younger brother Nnamdi learn how to dodge air raids and their songs were not Kumbya but how the Biafran army would be successful over the Hausa. Alfred also tells how his class size slowly dwindles because of the food shortages and the struggles of his mother to keep the family fed.

His brother Fedelis joined the Biafran army when he was all of 17 years old and the intensity builds through out the book of his brother's stories.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 - SURVIVING IN BIAFRA

REGGAEMANIA

Sons of Zadok

By: Empress I-dra Iyah

When listening to certain tracks on Sons of Zadok's debut album, Nazarene Vow, One may get the distinct impression that we are hearing the weathered voice of a large, experienced Jamaican. But a glance at the cover will tell One otherwise: a thin, young man, who appears to be levitating, is ministering to a small group of disciples. This young man is well-read frontman, Okbar Ras Mufasa.

At 24 years of age, Okbar is working hard to realize his dreams. He says that although the album took nearly three years to write, every moment was worth it to create a quality album such as this. Best-known for his work in Sons of Zadok, which he formed in 2001 with Canadian popular producer Deceo Ellipsis, Okbar has worked with many artists over the years including Speeches Beyond, Droneski Rockone and Cando Jerusalem. He is currently working in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada promoting and selling his CD and gracing stages with his commanding presence. A quiet, private man, his persona is magnetic. One cannot help but be inspired by his mystical, complex style of writing.

Deceo Ellipsis, on the other hand, prefers to remain an enigma. His whereabouts are rarely known except by those fortunate enough to be part of his closest inner circle. His music is the stuff of

legends and Canadian MCs scramble to ride a beat by this popular producer.

Every track on Nazarene Vow is dance able. One song, 'Israel Light,' even made it to the #1 spot on New Music Canada's Most Requested Song list. From booty-shakin' 'Midnight Rave' to the Wombman-uplifting 'Jewel of the Lotus Nile', Nazarene Vow is guaranteed to be a regular on your play list for weeks to come, featuring lyrical cameos from the talented artists GemInEye, Ndidi Casscade and Kia Kadiri. With references from the spiritual texts of various religious traditions, Sons of Zadok are quickly gaining a following that has spread south from their hometown of Vancouver into Washington, Oregon and California, USA.



In true Indie fashion, Nazarene Vow cannot to be found on any music store shelf. This underground-breaking album is available almost exclusively online at www.newmusiccanada.com while supplies are in stock. What's nice is that almost every track is available online for preview, so the I can try before you buy!

For more information on Sons of Zadok, including upcoming performance dates, photos and links, please visit <http://zaddikmelchizedek.tripod.com> and www.deceoellipsis.com.

FAITH FULLNESS FROM PAGE 10

deserving of the relationship. I do not like to think that lust or self-fulfilling vanity is a main cause of unfaithfulness. Although it is apparent in the lyrics from Bob Marley's 'Could You Be Loved' - "No matter how you treat them men will never be satisfied."

The Disciples asked further of Yashuah, saying, **"if this is the situation between a man and wife, it is better not to marry?"** - Matthew 19:10. At this the Saviour replied, **"Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it has been given."** One may ask 'what teaching is He referring to, is it what the Disciples said, or what He has said before this?' Possibly they are one and the same. **"For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and**

others have renounced marriage because of the King Dome of Zion. The one who can accept this should accept it." - Matthew 19:12

In I do sight that In I are Created to be Faith Full to H.I.M., and H.I.M. Firstly. If In I can hold a relationship with another as a partner, as one flesh before H.I.M., then In I say do it! If the lust or desire of the flesh is too strong to remain Faith Full to your partner, or if your partner gets in your way of being Faith Full to H.I.M., then ya may be better off without. Most of the woman I see on I daily trod thru New Jersey, USA, are far from H.I.M. and would cause Iman difficulties if I were to engage a relation. I prefer to Serve I King diligently, and wait in faith fullness for H.I.M. to Provide In I a suitable Wombman. If JAH intend for In I to be with wombman, then she will be joined to I in time. - Selah

BROTHERS' AND SISTERS' KEEPERS

SoulJahs Inna Captivity

By: Ras Miles Jacob Marley

"Remember Those Who Are Prisoners, As Though You Were In Prison"
Hebrew 13:3

Blessings in the name of The Most High JAH Rastafari.....Haile Selassie I The First.

First I would like to "Give Thanks" to I Sista and Managing Editor, Sista Issa Kelly for the wonderful job of launching InI first issue of the IRASCOM Journal, and also I would like to "Give Thanks" to Sista G of KKFI 90.1 FM in Kansas City, Missouri for the opportunity to bring IRASCOM Journal, as well as I Prison Ministry, forward in the interview with I self and Sista Issa Kelly, Bless Up to both I Sisters.

In the first issue, I Brother Ras Yen gave InI a upful perspective on the wearing of locks by Rastafarians and those of other cultures. I Brother Ras Berhane, gave InI the heartfelt perspective on the legal issues surrounding the locks. I would just like to touch a bit on this and say, that the discrimination on a religious basis in prison as far as the wearing and growing of locks is truly alive and well.

InI must realize that when one forgets the past it only comes back to InI, tenfold. As InI know in the beginnings of the Rastafarian movement, the social administrators of society persecuted many for the growing of locks. Many were beaten and held down and these administrators, who vow to uphold peace in I society, shaved their heads. I ask, "why?"

In September 29, 2001 a newspaper article appeared in the Chicago Defender about these same occurrences going on in the prison system. Dub the 'Orange Crush' unit, they would forcefully hold down prisoners and proceed to shave their locks.

Now 4 years later the struggle still continues. I have personal reports of this discrimination going on in all parts of the U.S. Prison system. I must also mention that most, if not all of these prisons



Ras Marley and some of the members of his ministry

practicing these unlawful tactics are state prisons according to I reports. It seems that there is a big difference when it comes to Federal prison and State prisons. I ask why is this? Government incarceration is just that. States are governed federally. The Bureau Of Prison regulations states that inmates may grow there hair according to their religious tenets. So why are Rastafarians being persecuted?

Here at R.U.O. ReBirth: 2000 InI send out a "hair exception" letter to the SoulJah as well as to the Administration to help and represent InI in this cause. At times this is enough, at other times, it does not matter to the system.



Our Sisters Inna Captivity

There is a great need for all houses of Rastafari to step up to these issues involving InI lost sheep. In every issue I will give InI at least one SoulJah and ask that the I's send a note, card, post card or letter to support the Idren as they trod the path in the belly of the beast.

Word Sound is Power, so lend a voice and be I Brothers and Sisters Keeper, Jah Blessings

in the name of the Most High...JAH Rastafari Selassie I.

Adopt a SoulJah
 Ras Alwyn Reid
 DB 8404
 S.C.I. SmithField
 P.O. Box 999 1120 Pike St
 Huntingdon, PA 16652

Ras Alwyn has been a member of R.U.O. for over 4 years and would like to hear from I. He has been in the system for quite some time and is a strong up holder of InI Faith and Culture.✴

VOICES FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

JAH REASONING



**Ras Marley (l) and
Brother John Tims (r)**

"Yes I" The I story begin long before November 22,1999 when the I made a conscious decision to look with in Iself and discover the fullness of Rastafari. On that dreadful day , Iman was sentence to Babylon Federal system for a number of years. I always knew in InI heart of the Power of JAH but never took the time out to gain the knowledge of the Creator or his Creation.

Going to clubs I always could hear people calling Selassie I name. Never overstanding the true meaning behind this heartfelt name that I heard in many different circumstances.

So, when I got sentence, I decided to learn about Rastafari, for two reasons. One, is because I felt it important for the I to learn about the significance of "locks" since I have made up I mind that I was not going to cut anymore. Two, being that since I grew up in America and I wanted a better connection with I African Culture and a connection to InI foreparents.

I have increased in knowledge in the past 5 years and JAH has revealed his teachings to I and has changed I life forever. Always considering Iself as a student of JAH, I can never learn too much or know everything. Only JAH can bless man with righteous knowledge and overstanding of His word. JAH is for all who will open their hearts and minds to His divine wisdom and life giving inspirational guidance. Everything the I ever want and need can be answered by the Father. InI just have to listen to the small voice that's within InI, for the spirit of JAH is always speaking to InI.

It's through the teachings of Rastafari, that the I has been able to maintain ina Babylon system's "belly of the beast" for the past 6 years and stay conscious of InI surroundings at all times. JAH is I guidance and protection always. And only JAH alone is worthy to be praised. JAH Rastafari Live.

Ras John Tims
#22807018
Federal Correction Complex-Low
P.O. Box 1031
Coleman, FL 33521

SURVIVING IN BIAFRA FROM PAGE13

Eventually the war comes horrifyingly knocking on their front door when their hometown of Nnewi is bombed.

'Surviving in Biafra' touches on many topics in its eighteen chapters. It is a quick and edifying read. There is a wonderful foreword and touching introduction. Although we are taken on a sad and terrifying journey it, brings a perspective that is rarely heard from the war front; the voice and hope of a young boy striving to do good in the worst of conditions. *

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PAGE 5

This is how I and I should look at it. It's really just as Bro. Bob says. All of I and I have a mission, given to us by JAH, to fulfill in Rastafari, regardless of what I and I look like. We all must fulfill those missions, because JAH wants them completed. It should not be stopped or interrupted

by others, especially not those of I and I's own faith.

Babylon is the one who plays those games, not Rastafari. Just look at the philosophies and teachings of Ras Tafari, Selassie I: ***"Until the philosophy that holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned, that until there are no longer first and second class citizens of any nation, that until the color of a man's skin is of no more significance than the colour of his eyes; that until that day, the dream of lasting peace, and world citizenship, and the rule of international morality will remain but fleeting illusions to be pursued but never attained."*** It is I and I that must make that word "until" go away, so that it reads: "The color of a man's skin is of no more significance than the color of his eyes." It is up to I and I. If I and I won't do it, who will?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 - WORDS OF WISDOM

BREDREN REASONINGS

Who's Ears?

By: Brother Osib

At this point of my life I'm beginning to see how the things that have happened to me have greater meaning than I gave them when they occurred. I'm beginning to see the greatness of the Almighty Creator and his influence on everything that surrounds me.

I was blessed with wonderful parents who had never forced me to accept their opinions and views on the world. They have just helped me to find my own path that I am trodding on now.

I grew up in a small town with about seven hundred souls in Croatia. Almost all of them were Catholics, some going to church every day, some only on Sundays, and some of them never go to church. It is not my intention to judge other people, or to speak against Catholics. I only can speak of what I have seen and felt, and that is hypocrisy. Many of these people lie, they steal, they cheat, yet they go to church and therefore they consider themselves saints.

It appears to me going to church just to be seen is not making sin. My parents never told me anything against them, but I didn't have a positive feeling about them. On my own decision, I was baptized and taken the sacrament of Holy Communion, when I was about 10 years old. I felt good while receiving those sacraments. I have never regretted that, but I just didn't feel like continuing to go to church, and I didn't want to receive the Holy Chrism.

In my teens, I have moved to a bigger town, but the people didn't change. I started to think about God and spiritual things. I began to listen to reggae music, just because I liked the rhythm. My dad introduced me to it, but I was too young to receive the message that reggae possesses. After about two years of listening to reggae, I became more matured and began to actually *hear* the music. I started to hear things that I was feeling. Things that I like to think about. I realized that in reggae, I heard what I was feeling whole my life. And that is how I began my true search for God, for my purpose in life.

I found myself surrounded by people who didn't understand me. Whenever I tried to speak with them about God, or anything spiritual that is

not connected to material things, I was laughed at. Those people who laughed at me were so called 'good, religious people' who went to church every Sunday and received all the sacraments without even understanding them. They were "Catholics". I didn't want to be like them, or even be considered one of them. I felt then, and I feel now the same way, as a man of love for the nature and people. One who sees the Creator in the sea, wind and storm. I felt as one of the people that I heard and read about, Rastafari.

After all the changes that I have passed through, other people see those changes in me. They see that I am not like them, and that seems to cause them to rise up against me. While walking on the streets, I see their looks, full of despise for me. Even if I don't see them, I feel them. Walking in the street seems like walking trough the courtroom and being the main suspect. Those eyes stare at you like you're some criminal, punk or junkie.

Why do they think so? I never did anything wrong to them, I just want to love every person, every plant, every animal. What makes them think that I'm in some way a threat to them? I don't know... What I do know is that getting through college will be harder with locks and beard, I know that the policeman will stop me when he sees me, and sometimes, I even won't receive the smile back in the shop.

Millions of such encounters can't do anything to me for there is the Creator who gives me the meaning to everything that I hear, see, do and go through. There is an elderly lady in my building who loves to see me, likes to wish me a good day and returns my smile. There are my pet bunnies that are full of love, my princess who cares about me, my parents who brought me to this world and raised me, my younger brother who respects me and my friend who understands me. Those are the source of my strength and will to do my best to spread the love and feeling of unity among all the people in the world.

Because, we all have one God, one Aim and one Heart.*

SISTREN REASONINGS

Rasta Wombmen And Pants

By: Empress Denise & the Sistren of IRASCOM Empresses MSN Group



This is one of the topics that we have on the Empresses website that I think is very controversial amongst all of us as Rastas especially the Rasta man, Rasta wombmen wearing pants. Again this topic is not to offend anyone, rather to create a healthy discussion amongst us wombmen.

A sista that is new to the livity asked a question on the IRASCOM Empresses MSN Group that is really interesting **"with the change in**

today's society is it wrong for the Rasta wombmen to wear pants as Rasta men do?"

These are some of the answers that were given.

"I&I trod Higher Bobo order. So fa me...long skirts always an head covered. 1 Corinthians 11:5 '...but every women that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head...'

1 Corinthians 11:6 'For the wombman be not covered, let her also be shone [cut her hair]...' JAH Bless"

"Greetings, I wear pants, skirts, sweats, anything that I feel comfortable in.... I wrap my hair or don't depending on my mood and the weather here...Being a Rasta doesn't mean that I have to dress as how others want me to always dress...I praise HIM and that is what is important...You must live life as only you know best...Haile Selassie I."

"Greetings, I had that same problem when I came into the livity (not that long ago). I was wearing pants and I didn't really want to wear skirts but then I started looking at others in tight pants and the way that men looked at them and just the way that they looked in general and I personally didn't like it. Not saying that men don't look at ones in long skirts a man will be a man but I find they treat ones with more respect and dignity. I remember walking down the street with I hair out [wearing] pants and I'd get " what up shorty," "yo," "hey ma" and many other phrases that made I want to gag and once I started wearing long skirts all I get is "hail up empress" "queen" "bless up sis" especially from bald heads to

tell you the truth the respect level is different. RasTafari is in ones heart and not in the way that ones dress many people dress in long dress and don't hail InI King but I think the way that I dress shows Babylon that I will not adorn I self the way they want wombman to be in these times...Haile Selassie I is in I heart and in every aspect of I life down to I dress code..... I wear my head wrap at work and everywhere else I wear long skirt all the time and I live in NY and come home late from work that is even more of a testimony to ones that see InI...anyways what you wear is totally up to the I as long as you hold RasTafari in the heart that is what matters it will manifest on the outer eventually at least that is what happened in I life. Haile Selassie I... Not the man the Deity"

"Sis mi sure yuh are familiar wid di prophet Gad of di 12 Tribes house. He seh some ting mi always used to tink bout in regards to dis issue Rastafari Livity. He seh dat deh is no "hair covenant". What him meant is dat throughout Rastafari Livity, an throughout di Bible, deh is no COVENANT or Promise to JAH dat INI need fi mek to insure INI Iternal Life. In a next way to tink about it is dis, yuh know seh most Rasta will tell yuh yuh nuh haffi dread to be Rasta, like Morgan Heritage sings...well same way deh is no clothing COVENANT, save di fact dat dressing modestly is required by JAH, according to di Bible, since if yuh were to dress inappropriate yuh could cause a next sistren or bredrin to stumble in dem walk wid JAH. Also it is about Raspeck in di sight of JAH. So when it comes to pants, versus skirt, of course a tight skirt cya be jus as bad as a tight pant, yuh sight? A low cut shirt, mi even see dem SEE THRU, lol, is obviously not raspeck in JAH Sight, an a t-shirt although originally design fi man, is obviously A BETTA IDEA den a see thru shirt, nuh true? I tink seh wha mi try fi seh is all of di spoken laws get caught up in mans views, when JAH mek it so clear what di new Covenant wid Him is to be. No one should judge yuh fi what yuh wear. An memba Jesus was known to be wid ones who was prostitutes, an addah undesirables of his time, an at no time did he speak judgment bout di wombmans dress or even her lifestyle. He did however tell her to go an sin no more, nuh true?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 - SISTREN REASONINGS

THE UTTERANCES OF H.I.M.

African Liberation Day

May 26, 1965

The first conference of the independent African states was held in Accra, Ghana, on April 15, 1958. It was decided then to celebrate this historic day as African Freedom Day. Until recently, April 15 was celebrated throughout our continent as African Freedom Day. However, two years ago today in May the Summit Conference of the Independent African States, which was convened in Our Capital City of Addis Ababa, decreed that May 25, the day on which the historic Charter of the Organization of African Unity was signed, be celebrated every year as African Liberation Day. Accordingly today is celebrated as African Liberation Day.

The African Unity Charter was signed two years ago today. Within this brief period much has been accomplished that augurs well for African Unity. In accordance with the resolution of the first Assembly of African Heads of State and Government held in Cairo last year, the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity has been established here in Addis Ababa. Under its Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Diallo Telli, of Guinea, the Organization is successfully discharging its responsibilities and commitments.

The Ethiopian people, who have struggled and made untold sacrifices for their independence and freedom for thousands of years - an independence that has been a beacon for all of Africa today - celebrate this day together with all Africans by consolidating their freedom and independence with the freedom and independence of their African brothers in the spirit of Modern Ethiopianism.

This year, two sister African states, Zambia and Gambia, have won independence and they have joined the family of independent African states. We share their joy and we extend again, as we did on the occasion when they won their independence, Our sincere felicitations. We are anxiously awaiting the day when those Africans in the dependent territories break the shackles of foreign tutelage, and become masters of their own fate.

On this solemn day, all of us must pause and remember the plight of our African brothers who are under foreign rule and who are desperately struggling to win their freedom, their basic fundamental human rights. Instead of granting their rightful freedom and independence to the

indigenous Africans in Angola, Mozambique and Portuguese Guinea, the Portuguese Government has intensified even more its campaign of ruthless suppression of African freedom fighters in these territories, under the outmoded, illogical pretext that these territories are part of Portugal. In concert with the other African members of the United Nations Organization, Ethiopia has never ceased advocating at United Nations and other international conferences that the Portuguese Government should grant independence to each and every territory under its rule.

Rhodesia

The United Nations Anti-Colonial Committee of which Ethiopia is a member, is presently visiting Africa to follow closely the dangerous situation in Southern Rhodesia. In South Africa and in South-West Africa, the policies of apartheid and oppression are becoming increasingly unbearable. The South African Government is accelerating its ruthless campaign: a methodical campaign of arresting daily, detaining without trial and torturing the Africans and their leaders who are struggling for the their fundamental human rights and freedom. All the peace-loving countries of the world must act together to force the colonial governments of South Africa and Portugal to desist from these policies - policies which are inhuman, policies which deny basic human rights, policies which are detrimental to the peace and security of the entire world and grant independence and freedom to these oppressed people.

To the UN

The Assembly of the African Heads of State and Government has authorized the Foreign Ministers of Senegal and Algeria to bring the cases of racial discrimination and oppression in South Africa, the inhuman colonial rule of the Portuguese Government and the dangerous situation in Southern Rhodesia, before the Security Council of the United Nations to find permanent solutions to the unrelenting struggles of the African governments and people. As a result the entire world is today more conscious of these pressing problems.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

From discussions in the United Nations in recent years, We have cause to believe that some friendly nations fully support the efforts to impose an economic boycott on South Africa and Portugal; it is unfortunate that some great powers who have been entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security have not co-operated in these worthy efforts. These powers are the main obstacles to an effective economic boycott of South Africa and Portugal.

The establishment of the Organization of African Unity, the concerted action of the member-states and the pooling of the aid to Our brethren African freedom fighters, have helped to revive and strengthen as well as intensify the liberation movements throughout Africa. For this we are grateful to the Liberation Committee of the nine African States, of which Ethiopia is a member. On this day, we should all recollect with gratitude the support of all those friendly nations in our endeavor in the United Nations and other international conferences to free Africa of all the colonial vestiges.

Next Assembly

It will be recalled that the Cairo Assembly of the Heads of State and Government decided to convene the Second Assembly of the Heads of State and Government in Accra, Ghana, in September this year. Because of misunderstandings among certain member states of the Organization

of African Unity's voices have been occasionally raised recently against the convocation of the Assembly in Accra. Nonetheless, the regular Assembly of the Heads of State and Government was, in the first place, designed to find peaceful solutions, through deliberations and frank exchange of views to such misunderstandings among member-states. We believe, therefore, that any change in the venue of the next Assembly will make no major difference. Consequently we have dispatched our Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to West Africa, with personal messages from us, to mediate with the leaders of the West African states concerned.

We earnestly hope that the member-states of the organization of African Unity will meet in Accra in September in accordance with the decision of the first Assembly of the Heads of State and Government. On this day, we extend our fraternal greetings to all our brethren Africans who are still suffering under foreign colonial rule. We reiterate that Ethiopia, in co-operation with the member-states of the Organization of African Unity, will always continue to give her full support for their just struggles to win their inalienable rights to freedom and independence, and to be masters of their own destiny. May Almighty God assist us in these endeavors. ✱

H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selassie I

ELDERS OF RASTAFARI - FROM PAGE 4

land is not Israel!

We, the scattered black people and the black natives, are the children of Israel and that means the people that are called Jews are not Jews (see Revelation 3:9) neither are they the Israelites and the land is not theirs. This was a clever plan of the Illuminati (illumbado; Freemasons; Lodge Order; World Secret Order) using the Queen, by her mandate, to give away the land of Israel which is for black people to the children of Esau who are presently in Palestine.

The Americans whom also are the children of the British are keeping the 'false state' of Israel empowered in the region. This is so because the flag colors of the British, the Americans and the false Jews (Israeli) are alike and also the secret key of the six point star above the eagle on the American money and the magen (Star of David) of the false Jews proves the conspiracy between the children of Esau and their oppression against the people of the earth. Palestine will be the issue in



the very imminent and near future. It is so because the true Israelites, the children of Emperor Haile Selassie I worldwide that are chosen are now awaiting the arrival and full manifestation of the micro-bio-chip. This will be the long awaited Mark of the Beast (see Revelation 13:16-8; Revelation 14:9-11). This micro-bio-chip will be Lucifer's last major action in this warfare against the people of God. In Jamaica the micro-bio-chip will be the extension of the present Taxpayers Registration Number (TRN) system and in America the extension of the last Social Security (SSS) system.

In that day shall all eyes see, know and acknowledge that the stone that the builder refused (Emperor Haile Selassie I) has become the 'head corner stone.' And in that day I will still be standing baptizing those who are ready, strong and bold enough in the name

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 - ELDERS OF RASTAFARI

DID INI KNOW?

Prince of Peace

By: Ras Ashkar Francis

When we use the term "Prince of Peace", we must also know that there's only one man to whom this term should be exclusively attributed. The one who is worthy of it. But how can we know who is the one who is worthy of such attribute?

This is not so difficult since the many people who use the term are people who are acquainted with the Bible, either in its entirety or with the many verses. Many people erroneously attribute this title to Jesus, although he himself denied being the Prince of Peace. To assist you with the correct usage of this term in the future, I'll take you for a philosophical and analytical journey through the scriptures.

It is stated prophetically in Isaiah 9:6 ***"For unto us a child is born, for unto us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will called wonderful, counselor, Mighty King, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."***

Many tend to think the fulfillment of this prophecy was the birth of the "negus" (the one who some erroneously call Jesus). But it was actually the birth of the Negus Negast, Haile Selassie I. The birth of the negus of Nazareth fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 which states, ***"Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and call his name Immanuel."*** In an attempt to shine a light on his most glorious appearance, the Negus denied being the "Prince of Peace" (see Matthew 10:34).

The birth of Haile Selassie I is, without doubt, the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy. Little by little, we'll go through Isaiah 9:6 and I'll show you how Haile Selassie I fulfilled all that is stated therein.

The Government Shall Be Upon His Shoulder

"And the government shall be upon his shoulder"

Now a government is a body or successive bodies of persons governing a state. It is also the act, manner and fact of governing. Most likely for the government to be upon his shoulder, He would have had to be a head of state, either a president or king. The term 'the government shall be upon his shoulder' as it is used in the scriptures actually means that he will be the one solely responsible for the administration of all aspect of government affairs. Leonard Moseley in his book 'The

Conquering Lion of Judah' stated "The weight of the empire rests upon this quite, but iron-hearted little sovereign; night and day he is beset by a thousand different problems, a thousand different worries and perplexities, even while he eats he transacts state businesses."

Dr. Hoffman, a Canadian journalist stated, "Constitutional reform in 1956 guaranteed all the rights of the people of Ethiopia; though the Emperor retains much power in governing his agricultural nation of 22 million people, all the time seeking to lead his nation toward a fully modern way of life. At 76 years of age, His Imperial Majesty continues to work a twenty hour day, with three hours for rest and one devoted to prayers." In the introduction to the Autobiography of Haile Selassie I, printed and published by the Oxford University press, translated by Edward Ullendorf, a professor of Ethiopian studies. Ullendorf stated, "Greater and more profound changes have occurred in Ethiopia during the lifetime of this emperor than throughout the two and a half millennia of recorded Ethiopian history." And any objective analysis of the life of H.I.M. Haile Selassie I would undeniably bring one to the conclusion that Haile Selassie I positively and significantly contributed to Ethiopia's history and progress.

Wonderful

"And his name shall be called wonderful"

The name Rastafari is a combination of two Amharic words, Ras and Tafari. Ras is a title of nobility given to certain officials and Tafari is the birth name of Haile Selassie I. Tafari, when anglicized, means 'He who inspires fear or wonder' or 'He who is full of wonder'. The reverence Haile Selassie I enjoyed as King of Kings in Ethiopia was hardly accorded to kings and sovereign of other lands. It is important to note that his fear and reverence did not come about as a result of harsh and intolerant rule, but it was embedded in the culture and customs of the people of Ethiopia to respect and revere their sovereign. It was even rumored throughout Ethiopia that no man, in spite of his status, had the audacity to gaze Haile Selassie I directly into the eyes.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Counselor

"And his name shall be called counselor"

Rastafarians refer to H.I.M. Haile Selassie I as the Counselor because whatever may befall a man in this life, he can ultimately overcome if he lives according to the wise counsels and examples set by Haile Selassie I. At our disposal we have over a thousand public utterances of Haile Selassie I, which can be used as principles and precepts to guide all of our public and private affairs. All that Haile Selassie I has taught us and the faith he has implanted in us assures us of salvation and eternal life on earth.

Aware that we are living in a world tormented between modern knowledge and ancient faith, Haile Selassie I taught us to be free from those irrational fears of traditional superstition and modern skepticism. Aware that we are living in a world that has been scarred by the crisis of vile racism and that this man-made philosophy is more shattering to the conscience of the world than any political or economic war, Haile Selassie I has taught us to "extend the hand of universal brotherhood to all without regard to race or color." Aware also that many of us after being wronged, brutalized and oppressed, have the tendency to bow and worship before the shrine of retaliation, Haile Selassie I has given us a different mandate, "We must live in peace with our former colonizers, shunning recrimination and bitterness and foreswearing the luxury of retaliation."

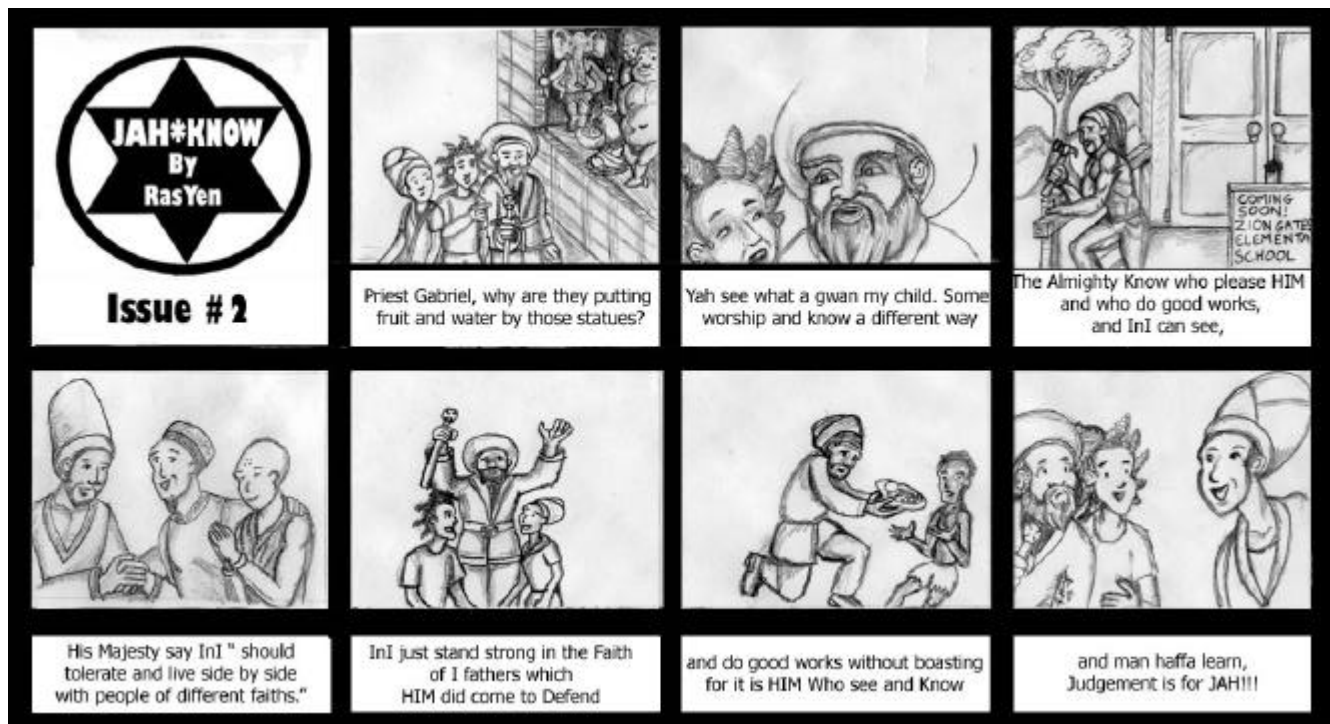
Haile Selassie I is one of the few men of our time who has perfectly bridged the gap between practice and profession. No one can doubt that in a society where the doing is, more often than not, the antithesis of the saying and where men fervently speak about their commitment to certain religious and social principles. Their lives are drenched with the practices of the direct opposite, that the exemplary character of Haile Selassie I ought to be emulated.

Mighty King

"And his name shall be called Mighty King."

The name Haile Selassie I is derived from the ancient Ethiopic language, Ge'ez. When anglicized this name means 'MIGHT OF THE TRINITY' Haile Selassie I is a mighty king both in name and nature. One just has to check the chronicle of Haile Selassie I, the many battles he fought and conquered, to agree with me in this assertion. Haile Selassie I has lived his entire life battling against tremendous odds and enormous adversities to accomplish what would seem as humanly impossible. One writer wrote, "surely it has been a difficult life he had and yet he is one of the most gracious, one of the most humane, and certainly one of the most distinguished men I have ever known."

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE



Prince Of Peace

"And his name shall be called Prince of Peace".

Haile Selassie I's remarkable contribution to world peace is incomparable. It is he who in 1963 gave the world the seven prerequisites for the establishment of world peace. This speech was popularized by the will of Kadamawi Hayle Silase through one of Bob Marley's most famous hit, War.

It is important to note, for peace to be established, all peace-threatening and life-wreckening enigmas must be diminished and extinguished. Peace devoid of justice becomes merely a piece. In endeavoring to spread peace to the four corners of the earth, Haile Selassie I did not fail to establish, simultaneously, her inseparable twin sister, justice (see Isaiah 42:2). Peace, we must know, 'demands the united efforts of us all' Knowing this, it becomes the duty of everyone to put in their lot regardless of how small it might appear, it is valuable nevertheless. And as Rastafari, we have a special and very important role to play in this regard.

For peace to increase there must be a decrease in those social injustices that plague the life of man and rob him of that dignity and freedom that belongs to him as a free gift of the Almighty; injustices such as slavery, apartheid, genocide, ethnic cleansing etc. Haile Selassie I was almost exclusively responsible for the abolition of that form of slavery/serfdom which existed in Ethiopia and internationally he was a loner in his effort at establishing what he called International Morality. Haile Selassie I was one of, if not the first head of state to raise his voice against South Africa's apartheid, and he said he was doing it as an example for other nations to follow. Our redeemer stated, ***'We denounce the Government of South Africa because the evil doctrine of apartheid espoused there denies the basic equality of men and raises to the status of sacred dogma an odious and false racism.'*** He did not fail to back his words with action, ***"As long as apartheid is practiced in South Africa, Africa will have to continue to intensify her opposition until that scourge is totally annihilated from our continent...The glories and advantages of freedom and advantages of freedom cannot be purchased with all the world's material wealth. Freedom price is the sacrifice of innumerable heroes, and in deep realization of this it becomes the duty of free men everywhere to be ever prepared for the defense of their freedom."*** Haile Selassie I our shield and defender also granted financial assistance

and scholarship to the orphans of those who fell as victims in South Africa.

It is grieving indeed, but not surprising, that many people, particularly African people are not aware of the noteworthy contributions of Haile Selassie I when were it not for Haile Selassie I's incessant plea for the triumph of international justice, Black people might have been totally annihilated by marauding Europeans.

When in 1914 the entire African continent, save Ethiopia, was dominated by European Exploitation and Control, it was Haile Selassie I who wiped every form of oppression from the continent and restored to the people their personality and dignity by setting up himself as a beacon of freedom and dignity, fulfilling Psalms 72:4. when the Europeans were endeavoring to 'methodically and by means of all cruelty' eliminate black people from off the face of the earth, starting with Ethiopia (the world's oldest sovereign nation, a black nation), they were faced with the world's firmest man, the black man. He led his army on the battle field and gave all his commands from the head of his army. (Joel 2:11). The Emperor stated, 'the fact that I was found at the head of my army at once attracted thousands of men, and the fear and the anxiety of our enemy increased much to that extent.' "He also remained", according to one writer, "magically untouched throughout the battle." They also had to face him on the diplomatic front and it was at this juncture that one of the most outstanding Bible prophecy was fulfilled.

Oxford University awarded Haile Selassie I an Honorary Doctor of Civil Laws Degree. He was hailed as the Patron of Human Rights. The United Nations, an institution responsible for the peaceful cooperation of nations and for the protection of the territorial integrity of all states, when its charter was drawn up in 1945, after the second world war, Haile Selassie I played a leading role in its drafting. Dr. Hoffman stated "When the United Nations charter was drawn up after World War II, His Imperial Majesty was one of its original drafters."

Nfwise Haile, Ethiopia's Minister of State of Information stated, "Despite the failure of the League of Nations to live up to its covenant and the grueling distress that both the Emperor and his country suffered as a result, Ethiopia was among the first nations, which at San Francisco in 1945, built the United Nations on the ashes of its predecessors, the defunct League of Nations."

It is written in 1 Thessalonians 5, ***"Do not quench the spirit. Do not despise prophecies."***

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Test all things; hold fast to what is good." We all have a responsibility to be open-minded, astute and discerning. We must think incisively and appraise realistically. We must transcend narrow passions and engage in honest conversation. Now any attempt to reconcile the literal fulfillment of Haile Selassie I with the biblical prophecies pertaining to the Negus of Nazareth (Christ) in his glorious appearance, one would readily see the accuracy in the match.

Haile Selassie I spoke at length on many critically important subjects such as the following, among others:

Education
Neutrality
Confidence
Collective security
Disarmament
Colonialism
Racial discrimination
Apartheid
Human Rights
Peaceful co-existence

Haile Selassie I is the father of the Organisation of African Unity (now the AU) an organisation which has its Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Haile Selassie I is also the quintessential Head of the Rastafari movement. Who can doubt that with this

trinity of organisations and with the Rastafari movement fulfilling its mandated role that "of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end."*

Birmingham United Kingdom May 28, 29 and 30

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Hartford, CT – USA Sunday, June 5, 2005

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Time: 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Marcia Whittingham
Mwaite1049@aol.com or 860/214-2557

Ticket Prices: \$20 – Couples \$30 – Children
under 10 years old \$5

The Brothers and Sisters of Hartford in
association with the Shashamane Settlement
Community Development Foundation, Inc. come
together to support for The Shashamane
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Project, executed by The Jamaican Rastafarian
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WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PAGE 16

"All and all you see a gwan is to fight against the Rastaman, so they build their world in great confusion to force on us the devil's illusion." I and I Rastafari will survive in this world of competition. I and I will survive no matter what they say and no matter what they do, I and I will keep on comin' thru. I and I are guided by JAH and no man will ever be able to stop us. I and I are confident in the victory of good over evil.

"The stone that the builder refuse shall be the head cornerstone." Think about that for a minute. The world of Babylon will fight against I and I Rastafari. Try to force on us these evil illusions, these devil's illusions. I and I must be strong and know what is true. I and I must stand strong and chant down Babylon! I and I Rastafari will survive! I and I will not buy into this devil's illusion! We will not partake in this great confusion! This is confusion, divisions amongst JAH's children, Confusing who is who, who is allowed and who is not. It is confusion, GREAT confusion. Brought on to us by those that are not strong, Those that have, unconsciously, turned an ear to Babylon. Out of jealousy, greed or hate to cause confusion in our community.

"No matter what games they play, we've got something they can never take away, and it's the fire, the fire." JAH created us all. We must not reject any of that creation, because the one that I and I refuse could be that head cornerstone. For it is true. I and I have this truth, JAH's truth. I know that the fire is symbolic to many as different things, but I

feel that JAH has revealed to I that in this it is symbolic for His truth. So I and I have this truth, this fire and no one can take that away. "It's the fire, the fire, burning down everything." The truth is the fire and it is burning down everything. Destroying what man holds as important like the gold for instance, which represents man's wealth. The truth, JAH's truth, is more important, it destroys and melts their materialism, which is destroying and wasting their souls. The reason for this is because they know not the truth or they have just denied the truth. It is time for JAH to take hold. So whoever has denied that truth of JAH has then wasted their souls and invested their wealth into nothing that matters. And we can see this as it is written in the scriptures.

James 5:1-6 (Revised Standard) ***"1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. 4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned, you have killed the righteous man; he does not resist you."****

FACES IN HISTORY FROM PAGE 7

democracy also requires that the rights of political and other minorities be safeguarded.

In the political order we have established there will be regular, open and free elections, at all levels of government - central, provincial and municipal. There shall also be a social order, which respects completely the culture, language and religious rights of all sections of our society and the fundamental rights of the individual.

The task at hand on will not be easy. But you have mandated us to change South Africa from a country in which the majority lived with little hope, to one in which they can live and work with dignity, with a sense of self-esteem and confidence in the future. The cornerstone of building a better life of opportunity, freedom and prosperity is the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

This needs unity of purpose. It needs in action. It requires us all to work together to bring an end to division, an end to suspicion and build a nation united in our diversity.



The people of South Africa have spoken in these elections. They want change! And change is what they will get. Our plan is to create jobs, promote peace and reconciliation, and to guarantee freedom for all South Africans. We will tackle the widespread

poverty so pervasive among the majority of our people. By encouraging investors and the democratic state to support job creating projects in which manufacturing will play a central role we will try to change our country from a net exporter of raw materials to one that exports finished products through beneficiation.

The government will devise policies that encourage and reward productive enterprise among the disadvantaged communities - African, Coloured

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FACES IN HISTORY FROM PAGE 25

Indian. By easing credit conditions we can assist them to make inroads into the productive and manufacturing spheres and breakout of the small-scale distribution to which they are presently confined.

To raise our country and its people from the morass of racism and apartheid will require determination and effort. As a government, the ANC will create a legal framework that will assist, rather than impede, the awesome task of reconstruction and development of our battered society.

While we are and shall remain fully committed to the spirit of a government of

national unity, we are determined to initiate and bring about the change that our mandate from the people demands.

We place our vision of a new constitutional order for South Africa on the table not as conquerors, prescribing to the conquered. We speak as fellow citizens to heal the wounds of the past with the intent of constructing a new order based on justice for all.

This is the challenge that faces all South Africans today, and it is one to which I am certain we will all rise.*

SISTREN REASONINGS FROM PAGE 18

So it is again a personal ting between ones an di Most High. I jus feel fi assure yuh dat deh is no condemnation in what di I will wear. None whatsoeva. In His Light an Love"

"I site that Rastafari's biggest problem is what everyone think makes a Rastafari...unno what I mean? Everyone got an opinion about what is Rasta and what is not. If I worried about that all day long, I would never accomplish what His majesty sent me out to do. I recommend that women wear a skirt...truly, but not because it's the Rastafari "thing" to do, because it's the wombmantly thing to do. There are a lot of adaptations in Rastafari and half of us don't know where they came from and why...it's just supposed to be some form of standard for us as women. What about man's standard? I see nuff bredren praying with they're head covered....biblical doctrine says not to do this and it's constantly disobeyed. My point is that Rastafari is picky and choosey. We tend to pick what we think fits this livity and not what is Rastafari will...His majesty was not a locksman, yet we wear locks. We also accept those who are Rasta without locks, but deep down we say to ourselves, "hey, must trod with locks unno" so we have a lot of overcoming to do to determine what is Rastafari doctrine and what is not...and to avoid being like church, we are supposed to refrain from set standards. Now you also have different houses which all function differently so that throws an whole different loop into the situation because if I'm menstrating I can't observe Sabbath with the congregation in the Bobo camp...seen?...so many InI would really like to share my joy, but because that house choose to "adapt" that part of the bible into they're doctrine, I cannot do what I would love to do which is worship and celebrate my JAH and king on the Sabbath...in fact, not until I'm clean.

You see too many people put the things, which are less important in the trod above what is highest in the order. To love they neighbor is the greatist of the commandments, half of us don't even have this, so how is a skirt gonna make you do that? Overs?...lol...Anyway...I'm still trodding in a skirt, all I'm saying is if I site you in a pant or with your head uncovered while you around your gates or at the corner market I'm not gonna think less of you because I have Rastafari's love in the first place and with that the overstanding that you are no different than the person in the skirt. I love all people because Rastafari does."

"Yuh know, InI wear skirts most every day (rare occasion when I wear pants, & even then I have a short skirt over them), and InI familiar with the commandment regarding menswear, but... what about pants made for women? Doesn't technically classify as "menswear" & even men wore long dress-like tunics & robes back in the day - still do, in some parts of the globe. So, what now? I try to imagine what that commandment meant to those who were living at the time, when both men & women wore long tunics, etc. What was classified as "menswear" back then? How could they tell the difference? Seen? Guidance"

Some Bredren Responses:

"ABOUT the issue of Rastafari women in pants, my personal opinion is in accord with the ancient principles of Rastafari. Nevertheless these are matters that merit genuine conversation among the people who it most concerns, the Women. However let me give you a little insight. The ruling principle of each age is enacted by the ruling class of that

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

age. Presently we live in an age of so-called liberty. And the things that are accepted now though they are bordered on gross immorality were unthinkable in an age gone by. It seems normal for a womban in pants because Babylon says it is normal and acceptable. And even Rastafari starts to accept this because it is approved by Babylon. But whose examples are we supposed to be following; the womban rights activists and secular feminist groups or the ladylike example of Empress Menen. Just give it a little thought. And bear in mind I don't judge people by what they wear. "



"You asked me bout my opinion bout ras women wearing pants. Well I can really see no problem with that. Why cant ras women wear pants? Is it not what's on the inside that counts? IF the Rasta talking bout equal rights and justice them really must start within them own life, for example in the relationship between a womban and a man. No Rasta man in my opinion has

the right to tell him womban not to wear pants, why would he like to be the mini-downpressor. He really shouldn't be. As a Rasta of no house but in the same time moving between different mansions and opinions I sometimes see with my own eyes that in many cases there is the Rasta WOMBAN who upholds the whole family, she does the work and she does the thinking in many important issues and to be totally honest I sometimes get real upset that the Rasta MAN do not take more responsibility. A lot of talking but very little walking, seen. So when ras men say, ras women must wear long skirts and cover this and that and so on I think to myself, why Rasta man do you not start with yourself instead of concerning about the womban's appearance. All Rasta women I met are honorable women who can think for them self what and what's not to wear, ok. Men have had this "laws" for women shall and shall not for 100 of years in all cultures and I can't understand why the Rasta man picks up that view.

Sorry for the harsh language but this is what I feel, and of course it's just my personal opinion. I also want to add that mutual respect in what we wear in public is to prefer. Say, I don't think the womban

want to have a man that deliberately wear very sexy clothes to attract women , the same goes for womban want to wear really tight shorts and mini mini clothes to attract other men. Well U know what I mean....it's a question of respect for the love the husband and wife share. Blessed love and equality!"

Those are just some of the responses that were given; [there were] too many to add to article. Now my question is where in the Bible does it say that a womban cannot wear pants? Pardon my ignorance but I don't see anything like that. But I do see that man back in the day use to wear skirt as well as womban.

Deuteronomy 22:5: **"The womban shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a womban's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God."** Since man and womban wore the same garment back in the day, how can it be an abomination unless it was distinguishable those days? Why can't it be the same for pants? Clearly men were not wearing pants back then. Samuel 24:4 **"Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily"** that verse shows us that men wore skirts. There are more verses in the Bible that mention skirts. What I'm gathering from this issue of pants is if men decide to wear skirts again, then I guess it would be wrong for womban to wear skirt too...just trying to make a point here.

This is the 21st Century and times have changed and we need to start living in the future, seen. Womban is not staying in the background anymore. She is out there holding down the same jobs as men and some have to wear pants. I can't be a Mechanic or a construction worker and JAH forbid if I have to go fight a war in a skirt. We can be well respected Rasta womban in pants. We look and act differently from Babylon womban, whose ways and styles are different from ours.

We can wear skirt, dress, and pants and still look and strut like a queen and honor InI title as a RasTafari womban. There's an air about Rasta womban that no matter what we wear. When it comes down to it, when judgment day come it's not what InI have on. It is not I outer appearance or InI clothes that's going to take I to Zion but what's in InI heart. ✱

10TH CARIBBEAN RASTAFARI CONFERENCE IN GUYANA

July 31 – August 8, 2005

Preparations for the 10th Caribbean Rastafari Conference, slated for the 31st of July to the 8th of August, 2005 in Guyana, are proceeding feverishly.

The launch of the Conference was held at the Umana Yana in April 2005. The event was graced with the presence of dignitaries from the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation and from the Government of the host country, Guyana.

According to sources, it was the first time in its history that the tabernacle-like Umana Yana, juxtaposed to the leading five star hotel in Guyana, had felt the presence of the local Rastafari Community and its foreign delegation. It is, however, hoped that this signals a turning point in the thinking and attitude of a largely isolated Rastafarian community.

The Guyana Rastafari Council (GRC), a duly registered organization operating in the interest of Rastafari in Guyana, hosts the conference.

The GRC is presently suffering the loss of its founder, Bongo Isdras who is hailed as a respected Elder by a cross section of the local Rastafari Community. Bongo Isdras' untiring efforts and his lifelong contributions to the cause of Rastafari will earn him a place in history as one of the leading figures of the local Rastafari Community.

The Conference with the theme "Historical Awareness, Spiritual Upliftment and Economic Development" seeks the consolidation and formalization of Rastafari across the middle passage.*

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ELDERS OF RASTAFARI FROM PAGE 20

of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit confessing Emperor Haile Selassie I because indeed "him only is the Power of the Holy Trinity." I speak by the authority of Emperor Haile Selassie I School of Vision Bible Study, Prophecies, and Sabbath Worship (currently in the Papine Park for more than four (4) years every Saturday); a water-baptized order of the NYAHBINGHI.

P.S. This is a rebuke for all the ignorant that are willfully ignorant indeed and purposeful liars who insist that Emperor Haile Selassie I is dead. If I preach to you that he is alive there must be evidence by the scriptures. I now release to justify that the Lion of the Tribe of Judah is alive and well: Psalm 72:15, **"and he shall live, and to him shall be given the gold of Sheba: prayer also shall be made for him continually; and daily shall he be praised"** and Hosea 5:15, **"I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction (micro-bio-chip) they will seek me early."** In the meantime Inl are in the Blue Mountains (across from the JDF-Training camp) praising Haile Selassie I.

Priest Fagan may be contacted via:

Haile Selassie School of Vision,
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Kingston 20, JA, W.I.

Tel: (876) 377-4341 or (876) 375-6371.

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