



EMPRESS MENEN SPECIAL EDITION



The Archbishop concludes the regal anointing with the words: "That God may make this crown a crown of sanctity and glory. That, by the grace and the blessings which we have given, you may have an unshaken faith and a pure heart, in order that you may inherit the crown eternal. So be it."

On the Coronation of H.I.M Empress Menen—Nov 2nd 1930



Her Imperial Majesty Empress Menen

Princess Mrs. (Woizero) now Empress Menen was born in March 25, 1883 in the Wollo province of Ethiopia.

Majesty Empress Menen

Empress Menen was born in March 25, 1883 in Wollo province Ambassel Region at 'Egua' area from her father 'Jantirar' Asfaw and her Mother 'Woizero' Sehin Michael.

She was baptized in St Delba George Church. Her Christian name was 'Wolete Giorgis'. Her name 'Menen' is given for the most beautiful respected ladies.

"Princess 'Woizero' now Empress Menen was grown well be her parents, then she has got instructor at home like the former Lords' and Dukes' sons and daughters. Empress Menen know her native language, Amharic the reading and writing skill. Her Amharic teachers were Maduna and Father Workineh. Beyond academic education she has learnt home economics & spinning as Ethiopian tradition.

Since she has the best knowledge of house hold management people called her the head of women.

Empress Menen is charming lady and no one can compete with her.

In 1892 she married legally and born 2 daughters and 2 sons. These are "Woizero' Belaynesh, "Jantiror Asfaw, "Jantirar' Gebre Egziabher and "Woizero' Desta.

In Nov. 5 1903 she started journey from Dessie and reached Nov. 25, 1903 in Addis Ababa. In the same year in June the then "Dejazmach Teferi" now Majesty Emperor Haile Sellassie I King of Kings of Ethiopia married her. "Iij' Eyasu was responsible and made them a couple. The Wedding Ceremony was accomplished in the following condition.

Sacred Marriage

His Majesty King of Ethiopia Haile Sellassie was the Governor of Harar.

The bride princess 'Woizero' Menen was in Addis Ababa. The then Dejazmach Teferi Majesty King of Kings of Ethiopia, Haile Sellassie I sent to Addis Ababa his loyal servant the then Gijazmach now prince 'Ras' Emiru Haile Sellasse, "Lij' Beshah Wured. "Kegnazmach Gobaw leading other invited follows with them were sent travelled from Addis Ababa riding horses and mules and reached in July 23, 1903 in Harar. When they arrived there, Dejazmach Teferi waited them at the place called Hammaressa near to Harar Kejazmach Teferi was accompanied by his loyal servants and lords to receive her with respect. In addition to this the Harar army was awaiting to receive the princess around Awash.

The people of Harar wished for the couple to be like the sacred marriage of Abraham and Sarah.

Written by Yared Gebre Michael 25 March 1950 E.C. Addis Ababa

Translated by Adane Wondie Gebru (Addis Ababa University)



Passing of Empress Menen
Thursday, February 15, 1962

The Lion of Judah has prevailed
Haile Selassie I, Elect of God
King of Kings of Ethiopia

We are pleased with the speech Our Prime Minister delivered yesterday on behalf of Our Ministers and Our people concerning the demise of Her Imperial Majesty Itegue Menen in which he adequately described her kindness and virtues.

All of you knew her well but she was more intimately known by I. She was devoutly religious and did not lose her faith even in the time of hardship. During the memorable days of Our companionship We never had differences that needed the intervention of others. As Sarah was to Abraham, so was she obedient to I. Our wishes were mutual until we were separated by the Almighty. Her assistance for the good of the young, the old and the needy requires no testimony for they are greater than thoughts and words.

We have been extremely pleased to live long enough in the perfect union that enabled us to see our offspring, our grandchildren and our great grandchildren. We are thankful to the Almighty for having vouchsafed to us that long uninterrupted union which is not very common in the world today: There could be no more profound prayer for I to utter.

In spite of Our utmost efforts efforts to save her life in her time of illness, she was overtaken by the fate of Adam and passed away.

We cannot fly in the face of the Almighty, nor can We afford to be idle. Now that the time of mourning has come to an end, the public and our officials must attend to their duties. As idleness is injurious to the welfare of the country, as from Monday everyone should return to his work.

A large number of people have come from the Provinces to take part in Our mourning. Since We do not wish them to continue because this will disrupt normal life, it would be better for them to send two or three representatives with letters.

We are deeply touched by the expressions of grief both on the part of Our people and the foreign communities.

This is not the first time that Our people have joined Us in Our mourning. When Our beloved son, Prince Makonnen, passed away they expressed their grief in no less measure that We ourselves. They have even contributed of their own free will to erect a monument in his honour.

We pray the Almighty shall recompense you for your deeds.

When Itegue was sick the general public, following the events through the radio, shared Our anxiety. To the doctors and her personal attendants We owe a debt for their untiring assistance. May these tears We shed be accepted by God as price for peace in Ethiopia and in the world.

Majesty Empress Menen

When we refer ancient history documents since Adam we can observe that it is not only men struggle for the better, but also women contributed a lot on their part being on the side of men. Women shared problems and scarified them selves which make them sacred and give them special place in the history of mankind.

Woman participated in the battle field with men and be victorious than men. Some women are remembered famously because they made adventure. During peace women show their hospitality at home. History mention that they invite the army and have good social relations.

More than in any country, women in Ethiopia as men fight in the battle field being courageous. In the war front women fight with their husbands. Some women were commanders of the army which made them famous and their name is noticed in the world.

From these famous women Queen Taitu has got a great historical place. Empress Taitu fought in Adua battle field as a soldier and as a commander of the army before 62 years.

In 1924 memorial photography of his Majesty King of Kings Haile Sellassie I, Empress Menen, princess Tanagne Work Haile Sellassie I, prince Merid Azmach Asfaw Wasenn, princess Wolete Israel Syeoum, Princess Zenebework Haile Sellassie, Princess Tsehaye Haile Sellassie, Prince Mekonnen the 'Duke' of Harar.

Next to Queen Taitu our most chanceful Queen Empress Menen is the one who is the most beautiful naturally. Empress Menen is blessed and rich Queen Menen is kind, human, and God fearing.

She is always with the people who share the problems and find solutions. Queen Menen stretches her hand for the poor so that all Ethiopians like her very much.

In 1928 when Majesty King of Kings went to the battle filled Empress Menen administered the people in the capital city.

When the enemy's airplanes came to bomb, queen Menen encouraged the people and worked seriously.

In the history of Ethiopia no one has got a chance to get many children & grand children which help to strength the dynasty except King of Kings Haile Sellassie and Empress Menen.

Perhaps one or two children may belong to the former kings , but they cannot taste how sweet it is their grand children's effort and success.

Majesty King of Kings Haile Sellassie and Empress Menen, because God blessed, them, during 47 years of marriage years have got many children & grand children. The king and the Queen were tied with Holy communion. Their children and grand children were engaged in different fobs to give service for their country. This is special and absolute history for us which we cannot get any where.

Empress Menen since she came to this world in 1883 for 67 years age accomplished human deeds and charity. This kindness categorized her into sacred women. Elders, Monks, and priests in the church are witnesses for their sacred deeds. The writer is also would like to explain her eternal work by writing her biography in the following chapters.

Yared Gebre Michael

Speaking to I Sistren Part 6: Honoring the Crown

By EmpressGong

*We glow as Givers of Life
Our circle is complete
Nile and I
The Divine in I..*

Blessed Love in the names of His and Her Imperial Majesties Emperor Haile Selassie I and Empress Menen I. Blessed Libations for the Seed of David, and Makeda Queen of Sabaea, the Mother of the Solomonic Dynasty of Ithiopia.

I give Ises and humble thanks for the Ispiration given to InI by the Power of the Ancestors Birthed from the Nile. Behold, I Rastafari Family, the Khamite (Kemet) peoples who hold our hidden Identity as the first doctors, teachers, priests and healers of this Earth. As I speak to I Sistren, I will be using the Khamitic Dynasty and the first language of our Nile Peoples, *Mtu NTR*. I do hope that the Sistren and Bredren will seek further Knowledge on these things, for they are a part of InI.

We, the Wombmen of Rastafari are descendents of a looong line of Black Afrakan Queens and Divine Minds of Wisdom and Truth. As the Bobo Ashanti preach: We are Black Royalty in Flesh! We are the Sacred Feminine: Mothers, Sistahs, Lovers and Teachers representing the whole of Iration. We ARE Iration! For without the Womb of man, the Wombman, there is no Life!

As the Mother/Feminine Principles of the ONE Most High Creator we will forIver trod on with our mission to Reproduce and Sustain Life. We shall feed the hungry, clothe the poor and care for the sick and elderly. But our duty cannot stop here, because we are the Dawtas of Mother Auset (Isis): the Teacher and Forbearer of Roots, Culture and Irituality. We Heal our nation with Knowledge, Wisdom and Truth.

As we come together and resonate our Identity with *hesi* (chants) unto Jah, we must also recognize that part of who we are is personified by our Royal Beauty and Power. Our Divine Aunt Het-Hru brings to InI Khamitic Dawtas Eternal Beauty, Divine Love, Itection and Soul-ful Nourishment. Let her speak to us through InI *aritu* (chakras), especially our Hearts, Wombs and Crowns.

As we Bless these Sacred Feminine Seats, let us join the Minds of the Rastafari Wombmen in this time with the Khamitic Wombmen of past. Like our Fore-Mothers, let us resurrect the Iritual Principles that dwell in all aspects of our Lives in Flesh. We the Wombmen of Rastafari like our Ancestral Mothers, honor and anoint InI Crowns with natural herbs and oils, dreadlocks and Sacred cloths. We shine our Hola Lights and Beauty through colorful expressions as is/was done in the Mamaland of *Afraka*. But there is one difference between InI Wombmen of past and present: some of InI Rastafari Dawtas have lost the Knowledge of the Power in wrapping InI Crown.

I firmly believe that in these times it is solely the choice of every Individual Sistren to wrap her Crown, or not to. There is no judgment. The reason why I have chosen to write this piece is not only to feed the Sistren who ponder on the significance of wrapping the Crown, but to teach Sistren a new source of Power: COLOR.

Our Khamitic Ancestors believed that Light and Colour radiated tremendous Power and Energy to InI Body Temples and Irits. *Colors radiate light that helps the body to heal and become whole. They also have a profound effect on our mind and emotions. Certain colors affect specific energy centers in our Body Temple, which helps our inner worlds and aritus to flow freely and unhampered.* With such releases, InI are therefore able to reach the mental, Iritual and emotional Ites of Knowledge and Truth.

**UNTIL THE PHILOSOPHY WHICH HOLDS ONE RACE SUPERIOR, AND ANOTHER INFERIOR IS
FINALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISCREDITED AND ABANDONED.
UNTIL ALL IS SEEN AS EQUAL IN THE EYES OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD.
UNTIL THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS ARE EQUALLY GUARANTEED TO ALL WITHOUT REGARDS
TO RACE— HIM Haile Selassie Ist**

Speaking to I Sistren Part 6: Honoring the Crown

By EmpressGong

I therefore want to say to the Sistren, that as we Fari use our cloths as a covenant between ISelves and the ONE Most High, and as Itection against Babylon trends and pollution; let us also use our Sacred Wraps as sources of Power through Color Visualization.

Queen Afua teaches InI of the Ancient significance of everyday Colours:

Black & white together open up the Inner Self and bring true Peace or *hotepe*.

White purifies the womb.

Yellow connects InI with the Divine Mind giving us the Power of Words.

Purple sparks our creative foundation.

Blue brings serenity and signifies the presence of the Divine Mother and Teacher.

Green rejuvenates the Irit and Body Temple with Divine Love and Nurturing.

Orange gives the strength, will and determination to face challenges.

Red gives energy to the Warrior.

And finally Black, who we know so well, is the centre and groundation of Self; and Birthplace of Life.

Omega Sistren on the FrontLine, as we revolutionalize our Roots and Culture with Natural Vibes and Iditations, let us also break free from the bondage of Babylon with the Light and Freedom of Colour. With the Knowledge of Khamit we can look at our Black National Flags through new glasses.

We can see the perpetuation of Istory, Tradition and Teachings because The Knowledge is still the same. It has transcended time and space to remind us of Who We Are. It is Truth! Our very own Rastafari Colors of Red, Gold, Green and black have stood the tests of time and proven that Black people are of One Heart, Mind and Soul because we have never truly lost InI Identity. We are successfully conquering the dead minds who try to hide us from our Selves!

Sistren of Rastafari, I urge you to Honour Your Crown in Prayer.

Honour Your Crown with Naturality.

Honour your Crown with Light.

Honour Your Crown with Breath.

Honour Your Crown with Love.

And Honour Your Crown with Colour, for these are Reflections of the Power of the Most High as S/He resides in the I as I.

What a Beautiful feeling to step out in Faith and Guidance! What a Blessing for I to pass on Knowledge within the Sacred Bond of Sisterhood and Love as I speak to you, I Sistren.

Hetepu! Peace unto You!

EmpressGong

Barbados



**Charging the Powerhouse
Sister Ijahnya Christian**

The Most High JAH, His Imperial Majesty, Power of the Trinity, Conquering Lion, Earth's Rightful Ruler and Light of the I-niverse, are some of the many titles that signal the omnipotence of Haile Selassie I. These titles are also defining values and qualities for the RasTafari Nation in this age when heightened discrimination and rampant violations characterize the so-called war against terrorism and accompanying spread of demoncracy. From a historical perspective, the African American female Secretary of State starring in the drama of a crooked cop nation turned self-appointed police of the world cannot be cause for celebration. Her role in history is more of a blemish in the record of a people whose women invented farming and "presided over the beginnings of writing" in an age when the Divinity of woman was no secret. (Dr. Charles F. Finch, III in Wayne Chandler's *Ancient Future*, Black Classis Press, 1999).

Charging the Powerhouse therefore involves not merely a critical analysis of the Sister Condoleeza's among us, but nothing short of the replacement of the Mother in the Ila Trinity. Every Rastafari Sister Daughter Princess Queen Empress, must also empower herself and her people by going "...into the blaze of the flame of the sun..." making from its splendor a shield for herself and finding within it, the confidence to save herself, her nation and every other nation round about. (Makeda, Queen of Sheba 10th Century BC from the manuscript of Ishak's version of the *Kebra Negast* in the British Museum translated by Sir E. A. Wallis Budge in "The Queen of Sheba)

Continuing in the Ethiopian tradition is Empress Taitu securing victory at the Battle of Adowa in 1896 and making March 2-3, a holy day in the Rastafari calendar. During the battle Empress Taitu held responsibility for the water brigade for Emperor Menelik's 100,000 troops. She also led 6,000 male and female warriors on foot and on horseback and we are told that, '...fighting like madmen, the Ethiopian forces came on in wave after wave of ites, green and gold flags, glittering helmets and shields decorated with lions' manes.

"At one point, discouraged by the loss of men, Menelik wanted to order a retreat but his wife talked him out of it" and persuaded him to send in his imperial guard for a final, decisive assault which carried the day.' From a European perspective, "The surviving Italians were routed and utterly disgraced, conquered not just by savages but savages taking their orders from a woman..." (Holland, Barbara – *They Went Whistling: Women Wayfarers, Warriors, Runaways and Renegades*, Pantheon Books, New York, 2001 and Hellolife.org)

Any remaining notion of inequality within Rastafari livity is banished by Leonard Percival Howell in *The Promise Key* published by under the pseudonym Gangunguru Maragh around 1935. Howell was the first person to declare the Divinity of Haile Selassie I in Jamaica and by his proclamation of truth, "Queen Omega, the Ethiopian Woman, is the **crown woman** of this world. She hands us the rulebook from the poles of **supreme authority**.

She is the **Canon Mistress of Creation**. King Alpha and Queen Omega are the Paymasters of the world. Queen Omega being the **balming mistress** of many worlds, **she charges the powerhouse right now**" (emphasis mine). Men and people may tremble at the thought of a woman titled Queen of Kings but that too is a fact of Black History – Ethiopian History, the History that until the legendary union of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, was the history (herstory) of an empire ruled by a long line of Queens.

In charging the powerhouse right now, Rastafari Sistren can draw on the knowledge resources of ourstory and develop creative, empowering approaches to correcting inequalities that have stepped out of Babylon right alongside I and I and I. The Rastafari Nation cannot afford a battle of the sexes and does not need one if it recognizes the Power of Authority conferred upon I and I and I by His Imperial Majesty.

Charging the Powerhouse Sister Ijahnya Christian

This is the significance of HIM breaking with centuries of Ethiopian tradition to crown His I-loved Empress on the same day as HIMself. The tradition was for her to be crowned on the third day after HIS coronation and in the palace, not in the church.

The example set by Empress Menen is captured in the I-Majesty's remarks made on her transition. "Her assistance for the good of the young, the old and the needy requires no testimony for they are greater than thoughts and words." (H.I.M. Haile Selassie I, 1962) Her loyalty and nationalism were sorely tested during the invasion of Ethiopia by Mussolini in 1935 and this Empress actually gave up her crown in contribution to the war effort, never leaving the side of the Emperor. Such is the sacrifice that may be required so no one should ever seek to diminish the Imperially Majestic African Mama tradition of the Rastafari Woman for there is no speech or language where her voice must not be heard. The Empress of Zion Collective is therefore to be commended for the annual I-lebration of the Earthlight of Empress Menen, which this year will be held from March 23-26, at Spelman College in Atlanta.

Haile Selassie I's brief and enlightening address to the Women's Seminar in 1960, lists a number of qualities to be employed by the Rastafari Woman for the advancement of the Nation. His Majesty tells us that We "must be able to command **fortitude, patience, tolerance and diligence...**" to surmount the challenges that will confront us. He says that without our "...**relentless vigilance** no aspect of our responsibilities can be attained.

Finally, in full agreement with comments made recently by the actor Morgan Freeman, I live for the day when Black African History is not relegated to a 28 or 29-day campaign but is fully integrated into the formal school curriculum. Africans in the Caribbean Region (and the rest of the people too), must become as familiar with ourstory as they are with all the old pirates who continue to rape and rob I and in no sense at all must the story continue to be **history**.

Until that day, we will be careless Ethiopians if we fail to establish and support our own home study programmes, (Nubian) schools, study centers, Saturday or Sunday classes, utilizing the knowledge of Africa's gifts to world civilizations to trample the dragon of mental slavery and forge the advancement of the RasTafari Nation.

(Ijahnya Christian is a RasTafari Worker who lives on the island of Anguilla where she is establishing the Athlyi Rogers Study Centre for Triple Crown Culture Yard, a member organization of the Caribbean Rastafari Organization (CRO). Together with Ras David Sebastian, she is co-authoring a CRO publication on Rastafari for use by students taking examinations with the CXC).



Black Queen Arise

By Ras Jahaziel

Speaking to I Sistren Part 3 The Wombman of Rastafari.

By *EmpressGong*

Speaking to I Sistren: The Wombman of RasTafari

InI believe in being Realistic. As a Wombman of RasTafari I do not wish to say that we have a definitive role because our experiences are different and divisive. Education, economic situations, livity commitments and family orientations are some factors that determine how complex and/or similar we are under the RasTafari Banner. However I do believe that if we are to share the Righteous title of RasTafari, there MUST BE a common thread that binds us as Sisters in Faith, Irit and I(ma)nity.

I goal here is to highlight some of the characteristics I feel bind us Together as ONE in a Wholesome Sisterhood. I say Wholesome because I look at InI Imega Sistrens on the frontline as the Corner Stones of the Sacred Feminine Foundation of InI Iniverse! We are varying Reflections of the One Mother that breathes Life and Sustenance to Iration and to all of Mankind from Her Bosom. We are a melting pot of Insperiences and personal Istories that revolve around Birth, Rebirth, Ambition, Speech, Rhythm, Pulses, Love, Peace and Joy.



Empress Menen

I sincerely hope to spark the need for Sistren to Reconnect with one another, and Rise above the petty misunderstandings and mis-conceptions we've allowed to break us, our Men and Families down. I also wish this to be a guide to the newer members of the Faith, as such a Sistren was the Inspiration for this piece to begin with. We must recognise and embrace our Inner Vibes and Powers, for they are the Essence of the Mother Self we project onto One another in Thought, Word and Deed. This is how InI have come to write this Word-Sound, by the Ex-pressions of I Sistren in Faith.

Our Elder Imega Wombmen on the frontline are there to Share Iritual Love and Livity Guidance on this Trod of JAH RASTAFARI, SELASSIE I MENEN I. We must be our Sistrens' support and comfort for this road is indeed challenging. But the roughest road is the sweetest ride, and the reward of Zion conquers all trials and tribulations!

I as a Wombman maintain that while the experiences of others are a Guiding Light, the paths that JAH has chosen for us should never be confined to a box, never be limited in potential; for with JAH there is no one set definition, work or POWAH!

Let us reason on the Wombman of RasTafari!

In I Mind a Rasta Wombman is at ONE with InI Iniverse. She is open to the Mystic Forces of Irit, and has a close relationship with the elements of earth, fire, water and air because she Appreciloves ALL Iration. She is the MOTHER of all Iration. She alone can Stand in Nature without inhibiting the laws of Nature. Her family strives to be self-sufficient, and/or is conscious to conserve and regulate their use of the earth's natural resources. As an extension of this Naturality, she is of Ital Body and Mind, resisting the evils of unhealthy and man-made/modified foods and toxic beverages. Her Body is the Temple of Jah. She Respects her Temple for she Represents Life's continuous flow.

Speaking to I Sistren Part 3 The Wombman of Rastafari.

By EmpressGong

In I Sight the Princess is Modest in her appearance, and does not use her body for material gains. Her Royalty does not entertain vanity. We sistren cover our Natty/Natural Crown outside our gates. We do not encourage the growth of our dreadlocks for fashion trends and malicious topics of discussion. We know that the cloth we wear is representative of our steadfast Devotion to Jah, and is a symbol of our Royalty as Ethiopians/Afrakans. We cover our Crown out of Reverence as we Pray, and we Pray without ceasing! But when we let loose our Dread, we are Lionesses of Judah!

InI do not suscribe to the European Image of the Woman! The Princess adorns Her Self with Nefertiti's Beauty and emulates Makeda's Elegance. We encourage our hair to be its Natural Self. We allow the Natural Glow of our Skin to Shine through as much as possible! We ensure the Power of Jah is seen on our faces. The Princess never dulls her Creator's Light!

I hear the FarI Empress' Istory, as she tells me of the current struggles of her people. She is the Pillar of Strength in her community, and is responsible for passing this Knowledge and Social Consciousness onto their Children. Her wish is to see Afraka Free from all evil reign, be it White or Black downpressors. Afraka is her Birthplace and her Iritual Home. Iritual repatriation is a must, while physical relocation is of personal/familial/communal choice. "Freedom, Equal Rights and Justice for all Black people, and Peoples of the world" is her chant and her agenda. Zion is for all to envision and obtain!

I bask in the Glow of I fellow Wombman! She is Selfless and sees the potential Good and Positive Vibes in all people and situations. Never the downpressor – always the Sound Mind of Reason and Upliftment as she clothes the poor, feeds the hungry and tends to the sick and elderly.

A Wombman who devotes her Life's Blessings to her Family, her Home and her Creator, is a Virtuous Wombman worthy of Zion's Reward and Salvation. She sights the Oneness of the Holy Trinity in her Family as Wombman, Man and Child. She Innerstands and embraces her role as the Reproducer of Jah's Seed and her Womb as the Seat of Iration. Her price is far above rubies! Knowing Her Self to be the Mother of Creation, she endeavors at all times to present Her Self as an example for other Sistren to follow regardless of race or creed.

For these Virtuous qualities we thank Her Imperial Majesty Empress Menen for her Guidance and we Praise her contribution to our lives as Afrakans and Wombmen of Light! We give Ises to the Solomonic Dynasty for it has delivered to us a Royal and Holy Manifestation of the Holy Trinity: the King Alpha and Queen Imega and their Royal RasTafari Offspring. We bow to the First Queen Mother Makeda of Sabaea who gave us her only son Menelik to establish Zion forIver in our Roots!

I Pray with the Rastafari Dawta. She recognizes the Fullness of Christ as perceived through the Afrakan Spiritual Vision of Krystos. A Christly Character, a Way of Life that was seen in her time in the Life of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie the First. A Kingly Character: a means to an end, the One and Only. Our God: the 20th Century Manifestation of the Creator. H.I.M. IS the Anointed One who shows us the way: RasTafari. Our Father in Zion requires that we exalt our Souls above and beyond the shackles that downpressed our flesh for 400 plus years. A 20th Century version of the Exodus: Black People Inite and Stretch your hands unto Jah!

Though we come from all Walks of Life, we have all Iritually awakened to a new and Pure existence: the Light of Zion is ours for the taking. I therefore single out our deepest bond besides Love: that of Strength. Every and any Wombman on earth has the Strength to move its axis whether it be to save the Lives of her Loved Ones, or to Birth food for the Healing of the Nations.

Speaking to I Sistren Part 3 The Wombman of Rastafari.

By EmpressGong

Every Wombman has that innate nurturing quality that drives her to strive for the betterment of others if she is to improve her Home. Selfishness and greed have no place in the RasTafari Home, for they are the downpressors of the Nation and the root cause of our suffering. Never shall she bow to the wickedness that surrounds her. She will always wear the Cloak of JAH RASTAFARI tightly about her Bosom, Mind, Lips, Hands and Irit; and be a Beacon in times of darkness and insecurity Shining Brightly and Radiantly.

InI Feel the RasTafari Queen's deep profound Love for Self. She will never allow others to break that which Jah has made Holy and Upright. But she is also Obedient and Patient, allowing Jah to do Jah-Will because what is to be must be. She knows that tears and laughter are for only a time, and comfort will come because Jah maketh everything right in the morning. Within Her Self the Empress knows that all things are possible because she is the symbol of Life and Rebirth. The Peace and Blessings promised to her by Jah will be seen once her lesson has been learned – and it is learned correctly. Her Joy is in her Soul and in her Loved Ones. Longevity, Imperishability and Endurance will come from the limbs of the Creator.

I feel I words are a part of the Infinite Possibility; hence I encourage my Sistren to continue this _expression of Identity as Ones Insuperience Life. I urge you to reconnect with the Mother Forces surrounding you, and listen to the Teachings of your Womb. It is the Fruit of InI and the Gift there of!

Know Your Self so you may Heal Your Self Sistren! And all that you have asked for can be given because you removed that veil that was blocking your Deliverance. RasTafari is Truly Powerful as InI bring the Positive Forces of Iration into this tangible reality that is InI Life.

InI live for today and Welcome tomorrow with Contentment because we DO JAH's WORKS. I have the utmost Faith in you and I have renewed the Faith in I Self as I speak to you I Sistren.

EmpressGong





**Achieving Collective Security in Trinidad (and Beyond) by Engaging in Politics of Position :
By Bro. Bretton Alvare, Temple University**

When Selassie I manifest on Earth, HIM fulfilled the prophecy and loosed the Seven Seals. His holy presence signaled the downfall of wicked Babylon.

Unfortunately, this radical change did not magically occur overnight. As Ras Jag (TTRU Chairman) reasoned, "HIM nah go do the job for InI. Selassie I gave InI the tools, the wisdom, the livivity to do it we-selves."

Rastafari bredren all over the world have been waiting for the revolution to come, waiting for that mythical day when people all over the world will wake up and realize that their lives do nothing more than perpetuate a Babylonian system of inequality whose goal is just that; perpetual and eternal inequality and downpression.

As time wears on it becomes more and more apparent that the changes will not happen in such a mythical fashion. When them belly full most people don't care that they are simply tools in a Babylon system.

InI need to stop waiting and actively shape the changes ourselves by taking up politics positionally (because as Ravin I said Rasta is political whether InI wants it to be or not).

What I mean by conducting politics positionally is different Rastafari mansions and political bodies coming together, recognizing/establishing their common position, and endeavoring to take on one another's agendas. I do not mean conglomeration, compromise, or the sacrifice of churchical diversity that is Rastafari's greatest strength. Rather, I refer to a collaborative political process whereby different Rasta houses/organizations communicate, open up reasoning with one another, and establish a set of common priorities so Rastafari can work toward achieving Selassie I's vision of collective security. That process is absolutely crucial to facilitating the educational and collective development of Rastafari and it is that process that Trinidad and Tobago Rastafari United (TTRU) is trying to establish in Trinidad.

The trip to Fyzabad in August was a major step forward for TTRU in this respect. At the groundation, Ras Lincoln, Ras Jag, Brother Lance, and Ras Ravin made all of the Rasta houses on the island aware of TTRU's intentions.

Pledges of support were made. The lines of communication were thrown open. One week later TTRU was able to hold an enormously successful free clinic for local residents. But the doctors weren't Rasta, they were brought by Trinidad and Tobago Cuba Solidarity. It was only by taking up a common position with them despite our differences, accepting each other's agendas despite our differences, and collaborating despite our differences that we were able to succeed in providing free medical care to all in attendance.

Everyone, whether they Rasta or not, suffers from the dearth in healthcare and education in the Caribbean and Latin America. Only through collaboration (positional politics) based on this common suffering will we be able to provide for ourselves what the colonial governments should but will not do.

The prophecy will be fulfilled, BABYLON WILL FALL, just as every evil empire has fallen throughout human history. But it is on we to overstand that InI actions alone will dictate whether Babylon falls in our lifetime, or long after our children and our children's children have suffered under her yoke.

The TTRU project in Trinidad has the potential to open doors toward Rastafari community development, not because we can do it we-selves, but because the local collaboration we do on the island can have a major global impact by serving as an inspiration and model for others around the world (Rasta and non-Rasta alike) who share the same position.

Even though wicked Babylon seems all consuming, InI will fight her and as Selassie I said, "... we know that we shall win, as we are confident in the victory of good over evil."

