

RASTAFARI IN COVENANT

RAS

Month of the Light of the World

(1st – 30th Ras 90 / 31st January - 1st March 2021)

St Luke 4:18-19

St Luke 10:19

Isaiah 10:27



HEAD OF THE FAMILY



Ras Tafari

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JAH! RASTAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE !!

Blessed Love to one and all! Truly this is the day and time Jah has made. Let us be glad and rejoice in it, Rastafari!

Here we are in a new month and season, the month that we call "RAS" (Prince, Head) and that we describe as "*Month of the Light of the World*".

FOUNDATION OF RAS

This month of Ras was founded upon Ras Tafari being sealed and proclaimed as "Alga Wa Ras" Crown Prince and heir to the throne of Ethiopia. This occurred on February 11th 1917 at the coronation of Queen Zawditu. Five and a half months previously on 27th September 1916, both Tafari and Princess Zawditu accepted their appointment as Ras and Queen respectively, but it was at the Queen's coronation that they were confirmed as Alga Wa Ras Tafari and Empress Zawditu

Birth of Honourable Robert Nesta Marley

We also celebrate the birth of the Honourable Robert Nesta Marley Berhane Selassie on the 7th Ras (6th February). We acknowledge the Ras as the Light of Holy Trinity, the Light of Rastafari and the faith.

"The Ras" Yesus Kristos

We acknowledge our Lord Yesus Kristos as "The Ras" declaring Him as the Prince of the Holy Trinity, Ruler over the kings of the earth, the Heir of all things. (Revelation 1:5 / Hebrews 1:2).

I n I Rastafari

As Rastafari we must know that we are princes and heirs of glory, heirs and inheritors of the glory of the covenant kings of Ethiopia, receiving the eternal inheritance of the heritage and way of full salvation.

I n I Rastafari are a blessed generation, empowered with Jah Spirit (St John 14:14-17), empowered with the knowledge and education of "the way" and testimonies of the faithful and true overcomers. I n I Rastafari are people of the regeneration and empowered to prosper in righteousness, truth, peace and love.

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RAS TAFARI ~ Part One



The eleven years during which Tafari Makonnen governed as “Dejazmatch” (1905-1916) was a trying period for him, as we say “The Test of Election”. Our king passed the test of election by keeping true to his identity, destiny and livity (lifestyle) being faithful and true to himself and country. He triumphantly overcame all temptations, his adversaries and the political intrigue, which we will go into at some other time.

Touching on the situation that elevated Tafari to the rank of Ras.

On 27th September 1916 Lij Iyasu the 4th ruler of this 12th and last dynasty of Ethiopia was excommunicated for converting to the Islamic faith. Dejazmatch Tafari was then appointed “Regent Plenipotentiary” (Head of government) with the rank of “Ras” and Princess Zawditu was made Queen.

Opposition



Less than a month after becoming Regent, **Negus Mikael** “King of Zion” (so ran his title) the father of Lij Iyasu, instead of siding with righteousness and truth and the faith of the kings, came against the empire with his army.

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The Battle

On October 19th 1916, Ras Tafari rode out for battle against Negus Mikael and his army. Eight days later, on October 27th early in the morning the battle began and after fighting for approximately five hours, with swords drawn, and fighting hand to hand, Negus Mikael was defeated and captured. The Regent Ras Tafari rode back to Addis Ababa triumphantly, arriving on November 2nd 1916. Her Majesty Queen Zawditu seated in a vast tent at Jan-Meda and the people of the capital being assembled in full, received Ras Tafari with a great parade, ululating with joy.

Three months and nine days later on 11th February 1917, the coronation of Queen Zawditu took place. Tafari was confirmed as Alga Wa Ras, Crown Prince and heir to the throne of Ethiopia and Queen Zawditu as Empress, the Queen of the kings.

WORKS OF RAS TAFARI MAKONNEN

With the title of Ras, Tafari became Head of the Family, Shepherd of the Sheep, Heir to all things to the Glory of God, The Light to and of the World.

In this way he was empowered to follow and emulate the Lord in righteousness, truth, peace and love.

The Commission of our Lord Yesus Kristos

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me
Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor
He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted
To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind
To set at liberty those who are oppressed.
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord". (St Luke 4:18-19)*

Likewise, Ras Tafari adopted the commission of our Lord Yesus Kristos. Ras Tafari became the burden removing, yoke destroying power of God, reflecting Isaiah's prophesy of Jah destruction of the Assyrian:

"This day, the cursed one's burden is taken away from your shoulder and his yoke from your neck and the yoke is destroyed because of the anointing oil." (Isaiah 10:27)

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Ras Tafari ~ Jah Burden Remover and Yoke Destroyer

Ras Tafari as Head of the Family, and Shepherd of the sheep, the burden removing, yoke destroying power of God:

- I. Proclaimed and set in motion policies and standards whereby the people would receive a higher level of civilisation.

- II. He brought hope and healing to his people, especially for those who had been crushed in spirit and previously left void of hope, freeing them, from old customs, ignorance, poverty, exploitation etc.

- III. He became the Light of and wisdom of God to the world, the saving grace and example for Ethiopia and Africa, proclaiming and bringing liberty to the captives and those who suffered under oppression and discrimination.

- IV. To the developing nations of the world, he opened the way for truth, rights, justice and equality to be realised and exercised.

- V. For the hopeless and blind in ignorance he set the way for them to receive education and absorb knowledge, thereby opening their eyes to the possibility of attaining their aspirations and accept a new way.

- VI. From Ras Tafari to him becoming Haile Selassie 1st more people and nations became liberated from the oppression and bondage of their captors than at any time in history. This was due to his anointed works.

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- VII. As Ras Tafari he was appointed and anointed for service as the burden removing yoke destroying power of God.



HEAD OF THE FAMILY

From September 27th 1916 and for twelve years Tafari as Ras and Regent (Head of government) was the guardian of Ethiopia. From the beginning of his guardianship, he led and guided the nation on the path to a higher level of civilization. From that time forward, he faced fierce suspicion and opposition against his way of running the country.

Edward Ullendorf, the translator of Emperor Haile Selassie 1st's autobiography, said in the translator's preface, '**...for two thirds of his life all the problems Haile Selassie had to face arose from the fact that he was in advance of his time...**'

And so it was. The business of government was upon his shoulder. Ras Tafari brought in new and foreign technology for the progress of the nation, yet still, this became a thorn in his side, as his adversaries both internal and external came against the progression of Ethiopia and all for their selfish and wicked ambitions, but as Ras Tafari, he eventually prevailed. He recalls his struggle to accomplish this work in the introduction to his autobiography:

"...We Ourselves, by virtue of Our descent from the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, ever since We accepted in trust, in 1916, first the regency of the Ethiopian realm and later the Imperial dignity, right up to the present, We have set out to the best of Our ability to improve, gradually, internal administration by introducing into

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the country, western modes of civilization through which Our people may attain a higher level; hence Our conscience does not rebuke Us.

In explanation of the notion, ‘gradually’; unless it is through coaxing a child and getting it accustomed, it will not be pleased if one takes from it what it has seized with its hand. When one gives such a baby any sort of food, it will not wish to eat it, unless one shows it to the child and lets it taste it. Unless they give it milk or other soft food until it grows teeth, it will not be able to eat when they place bread or meat before it.

And similarly, with people who have lived by custom only, without learning at school, without absorbing knowledge by the ear or observing and searching with the eye, it is necessary to accustom them, through education, to abandon habits by which they have for long been living, to make them accept new ways – yet not by hasty or cruel methods but by patience and study, gradually and over a prolonged period....

...When I myself took over this responsibility in 1916, it was necessary to correct this chaotic neglect of fully six years and to make a beginning on the work not yet started, i.e., of introducing the new civilization. I spent my time working to the best of my ability, while my own ideas and the people fond of the old customs, (particularly as the latter had many supporters) squeezed me like wood between two pieces of iron. There was very little time that I could spend in idle conversations and doing things that give one pleasure.

What I set right in terms of internal administration, initiated already at an earlier stage, the innovations I brought about and such aspects of foreign-inspired civilization as I introduced into the country will be found...each at its proper place.”



Rastafari!

This edition is the beginning of the teaching and meditation on Ras Tafari Makonnen. We have just scanned over, selected and touched on, for our knowledge and benefit, a few highlights of His Imperial Majesty's unfathomable contribution during his time as Ras Tafari. The fullness of his contribution can be found in his autobiography, *My Life and Ethiopia's Progress*, chapters 7-24, which cover his twelve years in office as Ras.

Yet here and now, be fed with this same manna that has been presented here for you. It is the leaven of truth and blessings, it is a very important summary of Tafari Makonnen's work as Ras, the burden removing, yoke destroying, power of God and is a foretaste of his future accomplishments in his role as His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie 1!

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Follow H.I.M.

Now let I n I Rastafari take note in Spirit and truth. A natural birth would be one where the head comes first and the body follows, both being intact; so it is with the spiritual rebirth in Christ. He is the Head of His body, who are the reborn believers.

In Christ, the Head gave His life, rose from the dead to eternal life and His body 'the believers' followed in faith to receive the same (St John 3:16 / 11:1-13 / Ephesians 1:22-23).

As Rastafari and with our King being the head of the Rastafari family, in Spirit and truth we have no choice but to follow the Head, in the way of being and so doing.

Therefore, in the manner of Ras Tafari Makonnen, let us carry on building up the new civilization and show the fruit of regeneration, in the way of our Saviour and faithful and true like our King (St Matthew 6:33 / Acts 3:19-21 / Revelation 19:11)



The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Root of David has Prevailed!

JAH! RAS TAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE !!