

RAS 91HIM

Month of the Light of the World

Ras 1st—30th 91HIM ~ January 31st—March 1st 2022

2nd Glory Ras 91HIM

Key Scriptures

St Matthew 5:14-16

St Luke 4:18-19

Luke 10:19

Isaiah 10:27

Revelation 1:5

SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP



JAH! RAS TAFARI! HAILE SELASSIE I!

We are now into the second glory (strong/week) of “Ras” the month of the Light of the World. Let us give thanks to JAH for bestowing upon us His wonderful heritage, which is all to His glory, that we might walk in its light and stay in the “way and livity of full salvation”. Jah! Rastafari!

Also let us be very religious by keeping in JAH Word, the Holy Scripture, so that our life is in the Word and that we are guided by its light. Let us be able to say like the Psalmist, “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*”. (Psalm 119:105)

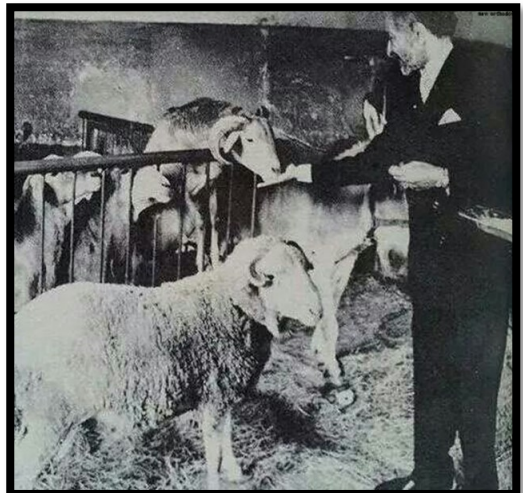
Recap

In last glory’s article, we touched on a few issues concerning Tafari. We mentioned that he was a governor for eleven years (1905-1916) with the title of Dejazmatch. We also mentioned that this was a testing period for him, but he passed with flying colours by being faithful and staying true in all righteousness.

Eventually he was elevated to the rank of Ras after Ethiopia’s ruler Lij Iyasu was excommunicated. Tafari then became Ras and Regent Head of government and Princess Zawditu became Queen.

As Ras and Regent, Tafari was now Head of the Family. He carried out the business of government, introducing new and foreign technology and with it came opposition against him. The internal opposition claimed that foreign influence would inflict damage upon the country, but their claim and contention was more about ensuring that they did not lose control over the territories and peoples that they governed and governed unjustly.

So Tafari went forward as the Head of the Family and guided the people towards the new civilization, as a good Shepherd of his sheep.



Ras Season

SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP

Light of Ethiopia

League of Nations

As well as introducing new civilisation and through diligent work, Ras Tafari was able, to get Ethiopia admitted to the League of Nations, despite fierce opposition. The League was set to be the organisation for “world peace”, although its European contingent mainly wanted to ensure that the nations they had colonised, in particular, the African nations, would remain under their hold and control without interference from other League members. The League was there to protect the interests of its members states. Ethiopia became a member of the League on September 28th 1923.

Liberation of Slaves

Ras Tafari actively pursued abolishing slavery in Ethiopia which was an arduous task:

“...Apart from the slaves who were set free by the proclamation and ordinance which we promulgated as regards the liberation of slaves, we were doing everything possible to set free the slaves by seeking several other opportunities...”

...We followed on the foundations laid as regards the liberation of slaves...and let it be known by proclamation on 22nd Magabit 1916 (31st March 1924) that in Ethiopia, slaves were no longer to be sold or purchased. We promoted an ordinance by which people were to be punished who in future were found to be selling or purchasing slaves and by which slaves were to go free who had come by way of purchase or capture prior to the proclamation... But in any country a few offenders must always be expected and if some men are found transgressing the proclamation that has been promulgated all the foreign envoys know that we had punished them even with the death penalty. Therefore, our conscience does not rebuke us for we have done unceasingly everything possible as regards the liberation of slaves.”

Light to and of The World

Give thanks to JAH for the books which discuss Ethiopian history written in Greek, Latin, Portuguese and Arabic. These books highlight and inform the readers of Ethiopian antiquity (ancient history) and of her greatness as a nation.

These books were especially important, for in the sixteenth century, Ahmed Gran, the great Muslim conqueror, penetrated and controlled large parts of Ethiopia and set fire to all the palaces and churches, burning the majority of Ethiopian history and culture.

As well as the works of her kings, namely Menelik II who sent out Ethiopians on missions abroad, Ethiopia, along with her ancient past had become known throughout Europe.

Ras Tafari’s hope and conviction for his journey to Europe was that he would receive these benefits:

- * To see European civilizations and the beauties of her cities
- * To initiate some aspects of civilisation
- * Find a sea port for Ethiopia to have access to the sea.

The Regent went to Europe en route from Jerusalem and then Egypt and visited France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Sweden, Rome, England and Greece, where he was received with great honour. Speeches were given in honour of the enlightened person of Ras Tafari and of Ethiopia’s great antiquity.

Ras Season

SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP

Here is an extract from a speech given by the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University:



Ras Tafari with Duke of York visiting London 1924

“...Who does not know that the Queen of Sheba, having heard of Solomon’s fame, came by camel bearing spices, gold and gems to try the king with riddles? Who does not know that she returned to her country to be the mother of all the kings? Who does not remember, as the centuries unfolded, their descent from David? Who does not know of their being the family of Queen Candace? All this proves the establishment of their Christianity over the whole of Ethiopia and their possession of an ancient faith over a long history.

A man [Sir E . Wallis Budge], who had studied at Christ’s College in Cambridge University, has, in recent years, revealed to the English people the literature and law of Ethiopia.

Today there is amongst us Tafari Makonnen, Ethiopia’s Crown Prince. He follows in the footsteps of his ancestors and possesses knowledge exceeding that of the Orientals and the Egyptians. He explores ancient and modern knowledge. He has studied all the ancient Christian traditions. He endeavours to acquire modern science. H.H. Tafari Makonnen is the first Ethiopian Crown Prince who has gone up in an aeroplane.

He has caused the books of John Chrysostom and of Mar Yeshaq to be translated from Ge’ez into Amharic and had them printed at his own press.

The books can be found in the Cambridge University Library. Furthermore, he has built a school for the children of Ethiopia.

We therefore make known to all of you here, Ethiopia’s great Crown Prince and Regent, H.H. Tafari Makonnen, the hope of Ethiopia, who is descended from ancient kings”.

Ras Tafari’s trip to Europe highlighted the glory of Ethiopia’s history and that her glorious restoration was in progress through him. He was not only a light to Ethiopia, but he was also a light to and of the world, leading the way as a truly good Shepherd. In I Rastafari in the likeness of Ras Tafari Makonnen must take note that his person was one of dignity, principle and self-control. He carried himself as Ephesians 4:1-2 shows us to do:

“...walk worthy of the calling with which you were called with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

RAS 91HIM

8 Tazajenat ~ Day of Obedience

Monday 7th February 2022

St Mark 12:28-30

9 Kedusenat ~ Day of Holiness

Tuesday 8th February 2022

St Luke 4:14-21

10 Ra'ee ~ Day of Revelation

Wednesday 9th February 2022

St Matthew 7:1-8

11 Makraab ~ Day of Provision

Thursday 10th February 2022

Psalm 130

12 Mamlak ~ Day of Worship

Friday 11th February 2022

Psalm 135:1-5

13 Germa ~ Day of Majesty

Saturday 12th February 2022

Psalm 93

14 Ergat ~ Day of Ascension

Sunday 13th February 2022

Isaiah 43:5-11

15 Tazajenat ~ Day of Obedience

Monday 14th February 2022

Psalm 125

16 Kedusenat ~ Day of Holiness

Tuesday 15th February 2022

Psalm 133

17 Ra'ee ~ Day of Revelation

Wednesday 16th February 2022

Genesis 1:26-28

18 Makraab ~ Day of Provision

Thursday 17th February 2022

St John 3:12-21

19 Mamlak ~ Day of Worship

Friday 18th February 2022

1 Chronicles 10:23-31

20 Germa ~ Day of Majesty

Saturday 19th February 2022

Psalm 144:9-12

21 Ergat ~ Day of Ascension

Sunday 20th February 2022

St Luke 24:36-53

St John 10:14-16

“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.