

# ROOTS

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## EDITORIAL

Greetings To one and all in the Name of our Imperial Majesty Haile I sellasie I and Imperial Majesty Empress Waizero Mennen I.

Blessed love and we give thanks for life and energy to communicate with ones and ones one more time. It has been some time since we last published **ROOTS** Mag. Nuff things have been happening around and we give thanks for all. The AU met and InI was greatly disappointed when African leaders could not take the opportunity to set up the United States Of Africa. Of course there are a lot of underlying issues that have to be dealt with in the process for example The Arab states in Africa...

WE still give thanks for the voice of the Ras Tafari to have come out clearly as a leading force for the Africans in the Diaspora.

The 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Coronation of InI God and King came and went and we give thanks. It's upon InI to be always vigilant and critical to some of them things going on. Let the truth be told. We cannot rely on our own selves without the guidance of Jah through the Holy Fire.

Ras Tafari is about working together for the benefit of the people, the downpressed., downtrodden and the voiceless. **Let the hungry be fed, the naked clothed, the sick nourished, the aged protected and the infants care for.....**

## Botswana and the History of the Ras



**Their Imperial Majesties. Emperor Haile Selassie I & Empress Menen I.**

### The Ras Tafari Tabernacle and Center At Otse Village

Otse is a relatively small village known for its hills, particularly the Lentswe la Baratani (Hill of Lovers). About 10 km from Lobatse and 50 km from Gaborone along the A1 road. A legend goes that back in time two lovers who were denied the opportunity to wed decided to flee the family, community and the whole village and ran up this hill and never returned. It is from the foot of these hills where InI in Botswana are busy raising funds to build a tabernacle. The land has been lawfully acquired by InI for the sole purpose of setting up a tabernacle.

There is a lot of work that is required to be done and will need everyone's support. Money will definitely be needed and ones and ones must assist in raising funds for this work. We call upon ones and ones in Botswana to become part of this project. This is for InI.

Let us build it together. Let everyone put one stone, one brick, one pillar.....then is one big house. Jah Bless InI work.

## Tafari Movement

Although a lot has not been written about InI, Botswana boasts a strong Ras Tafari community cutting across all classes of society. The Ras Tafari community has been involved in a lot of activities mainly at grassroots level. One organization that has been very instrumental in the spread of the word was Medi Ya Afrika ( Society for Jah Consciousness).. This organization hails from Ramotswa and was the first one to hold overnight Nyabinghi chanting and spread the word in terms of chants the Binghi guidelines to the rest of the country. Ras Tafari was entrenched in the people we had Rases at University who were finding it tuff but held on and overcame... Ras Tafari House was born in the University of Botswana in the late 90's , following the other set-ups that had been active at the institution before it like Roots & Culture from back in the day.

Medi Ya Afrika was particularly concerned with uplifting the minds of the people . During those times the Binghi was the major player we had not much of the EAIBC or Twelve tribes. Reggae music was then the main source of information. As information started trickling down through InI research, the likes of Ras Elder Lorne blessed us with books like the Black Parchment Scroll, The Promised Key etc I recall vividly in the mid 90s when the Rases at the university wanted to set up a house and there was nuff reasoning on the name and this and that, Bobo this and Binghi that and ones and ones agreed to call it **Ras Tafari House** and it was open to all.

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## SO Jah Seh

"Discipline of the mind is a basic ingredient of genuine morality and therefore of spiritual strength. Spiritual power is the eternal guide, in this life and the life after, for man ranks supreme among all creatures. Led forward by spiritual power, man can reach the summit destined for him by the Great Creator.

"Since nobody can interfere in the realm of God we should tolerate and live side by side with those of other faiths. In the mystic traditions of the different religions we have a remarkable unity of spirit. Whatever religion they may profess, they are spiritual kinsmen. While the different religions in their historic forms bind us to limited groups and militate against the development of loyalty to the world community, the mystics have already stood for the fellowship of humanity in harmony with the spirit of the mystics of ages gone by.

"It is our conviction that all the activities of the children of men, which are not guided by the Spirit and council of God, will bear no lasting fruits; they will not be acceptable in the sight of God. It will therefore come to naught as the tower of Babel came to naught. The grace of God is Eternal. Angels in Heaven and the Creation on Earth sing His Praise . We thank the Master of the world Almighty God. Power belongs to God. May God Our Creator, the Helper and Guiding Light of us all grant you His Wisdom that you may bear fruits for His Glory."

Who is this Afrikan Leader above?  
Hint: Black Councscious Movement in Azania (Aparthied era) win & earn a free next issue!

## Stepping Razor Celebrates

### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The 15<sup>th</sup> December 2007 will mark the tenth year Stepping Razor has been around. They will perform at the Ozone I Tlokweng. STEPPING RAZOR IS A REGGAE Outfit based in Botswana. They came with tunes like "Don't Worry.....Jah will fix up". The Group is made up of Rases Kopano Mantswe, Decent, Stepping Jesus, and Lordmore. The tenth anniversary welcomes also, another member of the band who resides in New Zealand.

This group has always been instrumental in keeping the reggae vibes on in the country. This celebrations promises to bring on one stage at different points of the night reggae groups like Jah Revelation Sounds, Lion Chant & MOSI-OA-THUNYA, Elder States, Banjo Mosele, With the Steeping Razor Stable welcoming Ras Judah (from foreign)

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## Ras Tafari Movement in Botswana ... continued from pg1

There was nuff fire there, me bredren. Although ones and ones initially saw the Bobo and Bhinghi as different there was a convergence of thought at one point. Inl matured in thought.... grasped the icept of oness. **There is only one Jah.**

This cannot be said of the larger Ras Tafari community in the country where certain ones still want to hold on to these name tags. This is another challenge for Jah works in Botswana.

Today the movement is growing with nuff Rases acquiring tertiary qualification form various universities at home and abroad.

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## THE FAMILY CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC ...THE TWO PRESIDENTS MEET ...

This past summer (on the Western Hemisfront) and Southern African Winter, Moagisi Mogalakwe a.k.a Ras Munya visited the United States of Amerika. The visit was two fold. The first leg was to participate in the week long workshop for the Study Abroad Directors in Claremont where Ras Munya is an intercultural educator while the second was the Ras Tafari family connection in Atlanta and Florida. It proved to be a blessed connection like never before in the short history of Outernational Connections and Ras Tafari & Empress Menen I Sons & Dawtas' works.

Ras Munya who had previously co-opted into the Executive Committee of the International Ras Tafari Women Organisation, Empress of Zion, made these connections with the Executive President, Queen Mother MOSES in ATL. Queen Mother MOSES had a set up a productive and upful itinerary for the bredren from the motherland. In each paragraph meetings shall be briefly covered.



The two Presidents, Co-President, Ras Munya Mogalakwe & Executive President Queen Mother MOSES @ the Presidential Carter Center, Atlanta. (foto: Ras Munya Personal Ark-Ives)

There was a stop within Atlanta to connect with the Rasta Educator, Binghi Shawn also Ph.D. candidove with the Georgia University. This master educator works on a Blakk to Our Roots Initiative which is his brainchild. Its also part of a bigger study that the I Cashawn is doing. Also father of youths like Kefentse and dem, this family bredren shares the air we all breathe with Ras Sipiwe and the Ras Tafari National Council for Inity (RNCI-USA). It was a joyous I-nification where a few reasons were done on that evening. Although there was tiredness in the midst of Atlanta high temperatures and humidity, InI were able to share a piece of bread and pray together. The idea was to keep in constant touch towards a building of the Almighty Ras Tafari Kingdom through the re-birth of the establishments in Ras Tafari National Councils throughout the Globe. InI are reasoning on Ras Tafari Global Government.

The project that Binghi Shawn does in 'Blakk to Our Roots' is the key connection in educational matters that are somewhat similar to what Ras Munya does with Pitzer College and the study abroad and cross cultural education. In this instance it's the children of Africa, born in the West to understand and trace their ancestry to the Ghanaian soils and see the departure points for their forebearers who brought them into the world in the Amerikas. A video has been produced with other idrens in Atlanta like Ras Kofi to capture the life story of a young Afrikan American dawta who follows her-story to places where her ancestors left the continent (from Ghana)for the west. A must have in our Truth-braries!

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The three Kings, Binghi Shawn, Ras Sipiwe & Ras Munya @ Binghi Shawn's gates. (photo: Ras Munya Personal Ark-Ives)

**Ras Tafari Movement continued ...**  
 It is important for these lites to educate and assist lites. These lites must setups study groups; work groups train lites in business administration and other subjects...

One important thing is to know that lites Africans are a social people and social living is the best.

Collective Security. Working together is very important and we call upon lites in Botswana to work together and build one Rastafari Family.

## MARCUS SAY

Take away the highest ideal—FAITH and CONFIDENCE IN A GOD—and mankind at large is reduced to savagery and the race destroyed.

FEAR is a state of nervousness fit for children and not men. When man fears a creature like himself he offends God, in whose image and likeness he is created. Man being created equal fears not man but God. To fear is to lose control of one's nerves, one's will—to flutter, like a dying fowl, losing consciousness, yet, alive but we shall worship Him through the spectacles of Ethiopia.

## PSALM 68

<sup>1</sup>**Let** Jah arise, let his enemies be scattered; let them that hate him flee before him.

<sup>2</sup>**As** smoke is driven away, so drive them away as wax melted before the fire so let the wicked perish at the presence of Jah.

<sup>3</sup>**But** let the Righteous be glad; let them rejoice before Jah: Yeah let them exceedingly rejoice.

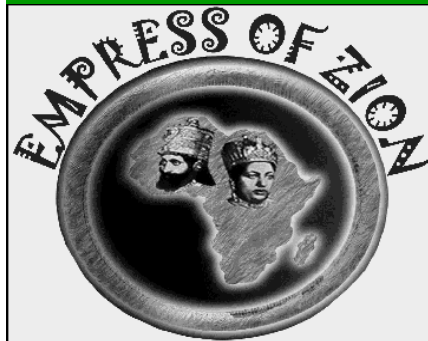
<sup>4</sup>**Sing** unto God, sing praises to his name; extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name **Jah** and rejoice before him



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### Atlantic Connections continued ...

In Tampa, FL. There exists a branch of Empress of Zion. At that town, Pres. Munya met with the family of seestars at Mama Ferkete's gates. Another I-faluf gathering in the name of the Emperor & Empress of Zion. Watch this space next year for more on connections across waters and space. Selah.



### Empress Of Zion establishes herself in Botswana

This past two years saw the establishment and growth of the Ras Tafari Woman Organization in Botswana.

The proper position of the Woman next to the KingMan as was Her Imperial Majesty, Empress Menen I with His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Haile Selassie I has been called for once more by the Sisters in the Faith.

Botswana saw the Launch of the publication by the Sisters @ the University of Botswana, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2006. The Book launched by Queen Mother MOSES, EOZ President, was also to culminate in the establishment of the house of sisters in Botswana, headed by the strengthful Dawta Gorata Motswagole. She has with her as Treasure, Sis. Thapelo and Sis Tshepiso and together with all the supportive seestars and brothers work towards awareness that would highlight the strength and power of Jah Glory in the Man & the Woman as it is and ever shall be.

The organization hosts Annual Ras Tafari Women's Reason on the earthlight of Her Imperial Majesty. This is taken with different themes each year.

Next year March marks the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Annual Reasonings which will be, for the first time in the Continent. This will take place in the country of Ghana. The dates are the 21<sup>st</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

Ones and ones are invited to visit the [www.empressofzion.com](http://www.empressofzion.com) to access registration possibilities. This year the theme of the Empress Menen Annual Reasonings will be on "Repatriation: Reality Check" .

Repatriation is a major challenge for us right now. There needs to be studies going on to inform a proper and coordinated repatriation exercise. Intergration into the community and issues of economics (sources of income & business opportunities) and educational (schools for children) and health care need to be looked into. This would create a conducive environment for those of the King Selassie I. So, lift up your heads yee everlasting ...