

## UNCOVERING RASTAFARI.

On the night of the 1<sup>st</sup> of November Ras Amlak , his family and Iself left Hartford, Ct, and forwarded to Washington, a reasonably quiet ride as the youth were sleeping most of the way. We had reasoned on the upcoming "Discovering Rastafari" exhibition for a good few hours and the ins and outs of it. Anyway in the final conclusion, I would say that we were not impressed with the idea.

After reading a couple of people's "reports" I suppose some were actually feeling elated by the feeling of being "discovered" finally. But I myself am having a hard time seeing the reasons (not that my opinion counts or anything) and wondering if this is not somehow one man's idea of being "discovered" himself?

I do not know Jake Homiak and have nothing against him personally nor do I wish to create anything. I am simply trying to get a picture of the necessary-ness of this exhibition and the questions that have arisen from it and the further division and suspicion of members of the family that will follow eventually.

I guess most of the people who attended the event and the ilebrations at the Top Shelf T-shirt warehouse were in a good vibe. Actually it was good to see a few ones who I had not seen in years, and to link with certain ones who I had been reasoning with for years via telephone and email. It was good to meet some of the elders and to reason with them. This is my highlight. From Elder Ras Irice, we learned that Elder Matriarch Mama Yahna, who sometimes resides with I n I in Hartford is one of the founders and writers of I n I language!

But I would really like to reason on this exhibition, well, not so much the display, **but the reasons behind the thing**, the display was ok I suppose for what it was and I even saw a couple of my buttons displayed in the Boboshanti button display, imagine that. I should feel good about that...but.

Many ones have given their views, whether or not they were positive or negative is not really the issue with me. My issues are these...why try to shut up the ones who feel that the exhibition is just another way of Babylon trying to commercialize Rastafari? People have the right to voice their opinions. I am fully aware of the presence of some of the most revered patriarchs and matriarchs of the movement, nonetheless, is the Rastafari movement only concerned with the opinions of these elders and Mr. Smith and Son? Are we only supposed to have "good vibes "about it? Should we not question the intention of Mr. Smith and son? Or is this a case of where we are told to shut up, and not tear it down, and not question authority as this is an "institution of higher learning"? And if in fact we do have reservations about this exhibition, to whom should we take them, if not to our elders? To whom, Mr. Smith and Son? Are we not allowed to have opinions?

First of all, how did the Movement come about?  
What were the conditions under which it was born?  
What is the basic cultural philosophy of the Rastafari movement?

*"Through the efforts of the Millennium Council, **grass roots members** of the movement **have been elevated** to a new interest and level in Jamaica. In part, **this reflects the true coming of age of Rastafari in the 21st century** as a*

*movement that commands the attention, if not respect, from the officialdom of Babylon."*

*"Prior to "Discovering Rastafari!", never has a major museum or **cultural institution** done an exhibition on the origins, development and globalization of Rastafari. The exhibit, which aims to be internationalist in scope and underscores the pan-African and global reach of the movement in the 21st century,"*

*"It is, to say the least, quite impressive and everytime I look at it the whole thing seems almost surreal that **we've** reached this far." (The emphasis is mine)  
Jake Homiak*

I am sure the Nyahbinghi house has its own set of "why this shouldn't be done" and I am equally sure that there are many who approve of "why it should be done", whatever their reasons, **there is an underlying reason that it was done.** And whatever these reasons are, I am sure it will reveal itself in due time; time that we may or may not have.

We can assume that with the given human rights violations against the Rastafari Movement over a period of 50 + years, and against the world's colored masses in general, that the intention is to further violate and dismantle the revolutionary resistance ideology of the movement and move it into the realms of religion and lets get together and feel alright. It would be easy to say that these violations against the Rases of the 30's- 70'were committed by the Jamaican government, and because the violations were Jamaican and not European, that makes it ok for Mr. Smith and Son to conduct "preservative and protective research" as concerning the Rastafari Movement. What is there in this exhibition to even remotely suggest that these violations will cease on a global scale against Rastas?

Now that a major "institution of higher learning" has done an exhibition, will the Jamaican government cease the persecution of Rasta in Jamaica, or for that matter the entire Caribbean not to forget the idren in Cuba, these idren are taking heat from Castro right now.

Another question that comes to mind is, how different are the atrocities against the Rasta from any of the other human rights violations that has been committed all across the globe on ALL people of color?

What is the possibility of the Oppressive White backed regimes that now govern the world having "a change of heart" now that Rasta have been "discovered"

And what would make someone think that the slave master will give the Rasta a commendation for his contribution to the African global liberation struggle? Who is it that we are trying to be "free" from? If a Rastaman or woman would even entertain that thought, that would constitute betrayal to His/Her people and their fight for liberation.

While we shout praises to H.I.M and Queen Iyavingi and Shaka Zulu and high profile dignitaries like that, bear in mind that these ones RAISED UP ARMIES AND MARCHED AGAINST THE EUROPEANS AND THEIR OPPRESIVE REGIMES.

My people, why are we still kissing this white man's arse? And giving praises to his "institutions of higher learning" since when does he deserve praises?

Will this exhibition advance the cause of or alleviate the human rights violations against Rastas across the world? Or is the Rastafari Movement becoming as we say in Trinidad "Center Soft"? I can guarantee you this, there is more Rastafari putting fyah on Mr. Smith and Son than there are Rastafari applauding the efforts of Jake Homiak and his crew, some Rastafari that live in the hills and don't even deal with the system, think Jakes could get past them with an exhibition plan?

We cannot assume that the whole of the Rastafari Nation across the globe are all in agreement with this exhibition. Or are they not Rasta?

NO RASTAFARI GLOBAL SECRECTARIAT HAS GIVEN APPROVAL OR CONSENT TO SPEAK FOR EVERYONE!! THERE IS NO GLOBAL SECRECTARIAT! - EVEN THOUGH CALLS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR ONE, SOME PEOPLE HAVE EVEN GONE AS FAR AS DRAWING UP DRAFTS FOR SUCH A SECRECTARIAT.

I will not be surprised if the Discovery Channel airs Mr. Smith and Son's "Discovering Rastafari" show that was discovered by THEM.

And it would perhaps begin like this:

Jamaica....land of blue crystal seas and sandy white beaches....blah blah blah, with Bob Marleys's One Love song in the background.

So where do we go from here now that we have been "DISCOVERED"

Ras Ravin-I

To **ones who have visited** this exhibition – pleas send feedforward (positive or negative) to Rasta Ites by emailing I on [admin@rastaites.com](mailto:admin@rastaites.com)