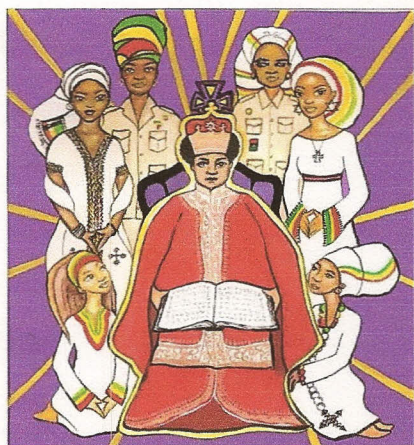


IDENTIFYING THE ROLE OF WOMAN WITHIN THE RASTAFARI MOVEMENT

"Woman's role has never been so demanding and you can be proved to answer this call for the betterment and future of mankind..."H.I.M 12/14/60



The role of the Rasta Woman particularly, as an initiated Daughter of Zion through the Church of Haile Selassie I, is an integral part in the movement of Ras Tafari people. As Queen Mother, she fulfills her duty and responsibility to humanity being co-creator giving birth to new generations, nurturing and educating them. As the Warrior Queen, she is a diplomat, military strategist and fearless lioness. As Prophetess, she is the intuitive visionary wearing the crown of piety allowing her higher self to lead while conducting her affairs in fear (respect) of the Lord (Law). As she activates these roles within herself, the three are one within and the Daughter of Zion becomes the emancipated Ethiopian Womb-man representing the kingdom of God in a feminine structure; and ultimately the heartbeat, the pulse of the Ras Tafari movement!

(Prophetess: clairvoyant, seer piety: faithfulness, godliness, devoutness, holiness)

A Daughter of Zion is the initiated/baptized Rasta woman, living by the utterance of His Imperial Majesty, modeling her behavior in the example of Empress Menen and adhering to the regulations of the Church of Haile Selassie I. The Daughter of Zion who defer to this standard becomes "the dead" and are people of the world.

Rastalogy declares that King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba created the way for the future plans that would technically bring about the salvation of man on earth because of the birth of their son Menelik I (1 Kings 10 v13). Through Rastalogy we identify "after being conceived through the womb of our beloved Wayzaro Yashimabet, God the Son became incarnated taking our nature..." Tafari was born for our salvation. Wayzaro Yashimabet counterpart of Queen Makeda and Mary mother of Joshua the Christ, conceived in her womb and brought forth the Son, Tafari, fulfilling (Luke 1v32-33). Tafari was born of a physical woman and His Imperial Majesty became incarnate of the spiritual woman through the womb of the Church. The woman/church gives birth to man/woman both physically and spiritually

Rastalogically the church is a symbolic representation of the three parts of the woman's womb. The process of initiation takes place giving the faithful divine kinship attaching them to the vine of

Divine family fulfilling (Mark 1v10). The church brings forth new life, the chance of rebirth through the womb of the church gives the adherent a chance to transmute and lift up the divine consciousness within to incorruptible spiritual substance. Ras Tafari took on the nature of God after being spiritually born through the womb of the Church of St Georges Cathedral.

Naturally, with the Emperor Haile Selassie I as the Father, the highest order, Empress Menen is the Queen Mother of Creation deserving of reverence and majesty. Empress Menen is royalty within her own right being of near relation to Menelik and having the blood of King Solomon and Queen Sheba in her veins. His Majesty established the significance of balance and equality when he broke tradition, during his coronation his wife was also crowned Itege (Queen of Queens).

Empress Menen, commitment to her faith, her husband and her nation, always stood at the King's side, working together as a balanced unit. As Queen Mother Empress Menen was blessed with many children and grandchildren whom helped strengthen the dynasty, financed the establishment of orphanages, ensured that women were educated and founded hospitals. As the warrior, Empress Menen was **the Emperor's most trusted advisor**; she gathered Ethiopian ladies by preparing logistic support, first aid materials and sent them to the battle field. During the bombing in 1928, she remained in the capital city to advise and embolden the people with courage. She is known as a financial wizard and a shrewd negotiator recognizing a good deal and **she was the Emperor's eyes, ears and proxy** to many events, totally committed to the mission of transforming Ethiopia into a nation of progress. As prophetess, the Empress was God fearing. Strict routines were enforced by the priests to keep her veiled in white at certain times as protection from the evil one. As charged by Empress Taytu, she completed the construction of the church found in east Addis Ababa and gave her estate to the monastery. During the war 1928 she kept praying, waging spiritual warfare against the enemy. The Empress stood firm in her faith vowing to give up her crown to the church in thanks to the Almighty once she and the emperor were returned as rightful rulers of Ethiopia. Daughter's of Zion should take cue from Empress Menen and acquire the qualities and characteristics displayed by the Empress who proved to be a tower of strength, standing valiantly never wavering despite tremendous pressure.

The emergence of Rastafarianism as a religious phenomenon in Jamaica and subsequently spreading its hand worldwide, those in positions of power have brutalized, criminalized, demonized and murdered the adherents of the faith. During these dreadful times Woman, once again, played her role as she stood strong by the Rasta Man. Without the woman in her role as mother, warrior, and prophetess, prophesy would not have been fulfilled.

Leonard P Howell's book the promised key laid out the role of the Rasta woman...in the personality of Empress Menen: "Queen Omega, the Ethiopian Woman, is the Crown woman of Creation. She hands us her rule book from the poles of Supreme authority. She is the cannon mistress of creation. King alpha and Queen Omega are the pay masters of the world. Queen Omega being the balming Mistress of many worlds, she charges the powerhouse right now."

Man and woman alike are interdependent upon one another. With the man playing his roles as Provider, Protector, Warrior/Priest the woman is free to rise up in her own roles establishing the balance within themselves and structure of family; the foundation upon which great organizations, communities and nations are built.

The Daughter of Zion can draw further strength from woman such as Empress Zawditu, Queen of Kings and political strategist, Empress Taytu, taking command of her own army in the battle of Adowa, Tawabech, wife of Tewodros II-elevated to sainthood for gifts of devotion to the church.