

RASTAFARIONLINE



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SistrenItes!

Rastafari Newsletter



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Swahili Proverb

Aachayi kweli huirudia

He who leaves truth behind, returns to it

(i.e. a person who does something good somewhere, when he comes back people receive him/her with gladness).

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From the Editor's Tukul

Greetings Bredren and Sistren in the name of Haile Sellassie I.

Let HIM be praised for all the blessings and goodwill bestowed upon the community in these often very difficult times. Earth is running red and plenty people continue to suffer from want. I pray that those who can and do offer assistance continue to do so and those who have the ability but are not yet lending a hand to alleviate the suffering will be inspired to begin.

This month is indeed a remarkable month for SistrenItes! as Inl give testimony that the works are indeed bearing fruits.

The Is will notice that the presentation of SistrenItes! has transformed. Inl hope that the readers will find the improvements acceptable and agreeable to the reading "IN"spirence.

Also Inl are happy to announce



that due to persistent, positive request from readers, SistrenItes! is now available in hardcopy (printed) format in the form of **monthly subscriptions**, thanks be to HIM.

Moreover, SistrenItes! is also proud to present the first **Special Edition 2004 SistrenItes! Annual**. This book is an ila compilation of the 12 months of 2004 SistrenItes! publications.

SistrenItes! is a free-will online publication which is produced without the solicitation nor presentation of advertising. Giving thanks HIM that this mission has been accomplished due

to the goodwill of Inl host Rastafarionline.com; which is a not-for-profit organization.

In order to meet the demands of Inl readers, SistrenItes! has partnered with Imega Books; a Rastafari-owned grassroots printing and distributing company. Imega Books is now the sole, authorized distributor of hardcopy (printed) versions of SistrenItes!. Below is a brief introduction of Inl distributor.

I pray that SistrenItes! continues to feed and meet the desires of Inl growing, supportive readership. Rastafari!!!

ImegaBooks.com

Imega Books has firm faith in the power of Word and Sound to stimulate the mind, embolden the heart and ignite the fires of positive action. To accomplish this, the Imega Books mission is to facilitate the powerful expressions of Rastafari and African Word and Sound through an online library of authentic works written by and about Mother Africa and her children's living experience.

Our goal is to offer an ever-expanding library of conscious, positive WordSound. This will be accomplished by providing a grassroots publishing/distributing company for those who wish to share our knowledge and wisdom to an international audience. Imega Books is proud to be the sole distributor of SistrenItes! Please visit www.imegabooks.com for more information.



H.I.M. Haile Sellassie I Speaks

Haile Sellassie I University Convocation Dec. 19, 1961

“The immediate and practical aim of this institution obviously is to educate the Ethiopian youth and to prepare them to serve their country. Although such education may be technical, it must nonetheless be founded on Ethiopia’s cultural heritage if it is to bear fruit and if the student is to be well adapted to his environment and the effective use of his skills.”

1st Graduation Exercises of Haile Sellassie I University July 12, 1962

“The establishment of our own University is an effective aid

in combining modern education with our noble traditions. Accordingly, it is Our earnest desire that this University shall jealously guard the wealth of our heritage and pass it on to the succeeding generation with all its richness and glory as reflected in modern education.

We say this with the understanding that any foreign training not assessed in the light of one’s long-standing traditions, is detrimental to the well-being of the individual and the country, and in no way useful. We are confident, therefore, that this University will produce useful citizens by inculcating these views in the minds of its students.

University training entails deep research and intensive studies. Any research should be related to the requirements and conditions of our country. We are very optimistic that there are many historically valuable things to be discovered. The students of this University are particularly lucky to be of school age at this particular time, and it is Our hope that you will avail yourselves of this exceptional opportunity and contribute to the knowledge of your country in particular and that of mankind in general, by revealing the hidden, great, historic lore. Our University, therefore, has also a special contribution to make in this field.”



**HIM Haile Sellassie I on
State visit to India**

“Any foreign training not assessed in the light of one’s long-standing traditions, is detrimental to the well-being of the individual and the country, and in no way useful.”

-H.I.M.

Reflections on Rastafari Curriculum and Education

It is becoming increasingly imperative that more of InI become involved in the creation of Rastafari curriculum and schooling for the children of Rastafari families. Sistren world-wide are in need of such support in order to raise the youths in the cultural and spiritual manner befitting and necessary for the future of Africa. There are those who have sought to alleviate this need within our communities and Sistren!tes! salutes their efforts and initiative.

His Imperial Majesty teaches InI that an education which does not incorporate the indigenous cultural and spiritual values of its

student’s community is indeed useless. There are many communities around the world whose people are served by faith-based establishments; schools, stores, restaurants, etc. As InI faith has been established, InI must now move into the nation building activities so crucial to InI one-ness and prosperity.

InI, as Rastafari, have overcome plenty of obstacles on the mental and spiritual frontiers, but InI are still striving to tackle the economic and educational territories. On these issues, InI suffer the same obstacles which beset all Africans; whether at

home or abroad. Decolonization of the mind, or freedom for foreign intellectual domination is such a crucial building block in nation building.

Those who have the knowledge, let them share. Let us not forget that parents are also InI teachers. Let the prophet and priest join hands with the teachers so that InI can make Rastafari curriculum a reality. Truly, InI already have everything InI need to put this together.

Sistren!tes! will keep the Is informed of community advancements.

Blessed!



H.I.M. Haile Sellassie I

Reading from “The Emperor” by Kapuscinski

The three principle factions in the Palace were the aristocrats, the bureaucrats, and the so-called “personal people.”

The aristocrats, made up of great landowners and conservative in the extreme, grouped themselves mostly in the Crown Council, and their leader was Prince Kassa, who has since been executed.

The bureaucrats most enlightened and most progressive since some of them had a higher education, filled the ministries and the Imperial offices.

The faction of “personal people” was a peculiarity of our regime, created by the Emperor himself.

His Supreme Majesty, a partisan of a strong state and centralized power, had to lead a cunning and skillful fight against the aristocratic faction, which wanted to rule in the provinces and have a weak, pliable Emperor. But he could not fight the aristocracy with his own hands, so he always promoted into his circle, as representatives of the people, bright young men from the lowest orders, chosen from the lowest ranks of the plebeians, picked often on little more than a hunch from the mobs that surrounded His Majesty whenever he went among the people.

These “personal people” of the Emperor, dragged straight from our desperate and miserable provinces into the salons of the highest courtiers—where they met the undisguised hatred of the long-established aristocrats—served the Emperor with an almost indescribable eagerness, indeed a passion, for they had quickly tasted the splendors of the Palace and the evident charms of power, and they knew that they had arrived there, come within reach of the highest state dignities, only through the will of His Highness.

It was to them that the Emperor would entrust the positions requiring greatest confidence: the Ministry of the Pen, the Emperor’s political police,

and the superintendency of the Palace were manned by such people. They were the ones who would uncover intrigues and battle the mean, haughty opposition.

Listen here, Mr. Journalist, not only did the Emperor decide on all promotions, but he also communicated each one personally. He alone. He filled the posts at the summit of the hierarchy, and also its lower and middle levels. He appointed the postmasters, headmasters of schools, police constables, all the most ordinary office employees, estate managers, brewery directors, managers of hospitals and hotels—and, let me say it again, he chose them personally.

They would be summoned to the Audience Hall for the Hour of Assignments and lined up there in an unending line, because it was a multitude, a multitude of people awaiting the Emperor’s arrival. Each one approached the throne in turn, emotionally stirred, bowing submissively, listening to the Emperor’s decision. Each would kiss the hand of his benefactor and retreat from the presence without turning his back, bowing all the time.

The Emperor supervised even the lowliest assignment, because the source of power was not the state or any institution, but most personally His Benevolent Highness. How important a rule that was!

A special human bond, constrained by the rules of hierarchy, but a bond nevertheless, was born from this moment spent with the Emperor, when he announced the assignment and gave his blessing, from which bond came the single principle by which His Majesty guided himself when raising people or casting them down: the principle of loyalty. – By Informant T.L.



“A special human bond was born from this moment spent with the Emperor, when he announced the assignment and gave his blessing...”



Scripture—Holy Piby

Upon reading the Holy Commandments as described by Brother Athlyi in the Holy Piby, I thought to extend a reasoning on each one, individually, through the words of H.I.M.

THE HOLY COMMANDMENTS

I Love ye one another, O children of Ethiopia, for by no other way can ye love the Lord your God.

WORDS OF HIS MAJESTY

“Wise men have always known the deep and pervading truth that it is better to give than to receive, for even as it conflicts with selfish and ambitious desires, it moderates and controls them.

Giving always demands sacrifice. To overcome the temptation to enjoy mere daily comfort, to press resolutely and patiently forward on the scheduled way,

are true tests of the high degree of determination that should bind you together. Memories of past injustices should not divert us from the more pressing business at hand...

Let us act as befits the dignity which we claim for ourselves as Africans, proud of our own special qualities, distinctions, and abilities. We must speak out on major issues, courageously, openly and honestly, and in blunt terms of right and wrong.”



Chant a Psalm

A message for the Dawtas; Humble thyself in righteousness, cleanliness; therein lies beauty.

Psalm 45

¹My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

²Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.

³Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty.

⁴And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

⁵Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies;

whereby the people fall under thee.

⁶Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

⁷Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

⁸All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.

⁹Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.

¹⁰Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;

¹¹So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy

Lord; and worship thou him.

¹²And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour.

¹³The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.

¹⁴She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.

¹⁵With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace.

¹⁶Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth.

¹⁷I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.

¹⁰Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; ¹¹So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.

Ethiopia

Axum Obelisk Returns

19 April, 2005

The first section of a 1,700-year old stone obelisk looted by Italy nearly 70 years ago has arrived back in Ethiopia.

The Axum obelisk is regarded as one of Ethiopia's national religious treasures.

An Antonov plane landed on Tuesday with the middle part of the obelisk; the top and bottom should follow within a week.

Italian troops seized the obelisk in 1937 and took it to Rome, where it has remained ever since, despite a 1947 UN agreement to return it to Ethiopia.

The plane carrying the first part of the obelisk appeared over the horizon just before dawn.

A crowd of Ethiopian ministers, priests and other VIPs cheered and clapped as it landed.

"I am excited, overjoyed and delighted," said Ethiopian Culture Minister Teshome Toga.

"This is a very historical moment for us, we have waited so long to have the obelisk back," he said.

Pealing bells and chanting priests could be heard from a nearby cathedral, reports the AP news agency.

The ornately decorated 24-metre (78ft) obelisk is regarded as an outstanding example of architecture from the ancient city of Axum, itself seen as one of the

four great kingdoms of the ancient world.

It stood for years outside the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome, despite an Italian commitment to send it back to Ethiopia.

It was eventually dismantled by Italian experts in 2004 in readiness for its journey home.

The operation is costing Italy an estimated 6m euros (\$7.7m).

But the obelisk's return had been beset by "technical difficulties" and repeatedly postponed.

The most recent delay came just last week, when it was postponed "indefinitely" amid concerns that the airstrip at Axum could not handle the cargo plane.

The 160-ton monument had to be broken into three pieces.

The delay was a disappointment for Ethiopians and the country's government, which had planned a national celebration to mark the return of the obelisk.

Shortly after the obelisk's return, traditional dancers took to the streets of Axum to celebrate.

The obelisk will be re-erected after the rains in September.

Many Ethiopians see the obelisk as a vital national symbol, and the prospect of its return stirs strong emotions.

Abebe Alenayehu, 81, watched Italian troops seize the obelisk from Axum, but never expected to be alive to witness its return.

"The memory still leaves a bitter taste in my mouth," he told the Associated Press news agency.

"Every day for the last 67 years I have thought about the obelisk."



Lattanzi, the Italian company responsible for transporting the obelisk to Axum, has described the obelisk as the largest, heaviest object ever transported by air.

Heaters were installed in the plane to protect the monument from freezing air temperatures.

The obelisk was wrapped in steel bars to stabilise it in case of turbulence during the six-hour flight, Lattanzi director Simone Pietero told AP.

In addition, the airstrip at Axum had to be upgraded to handle the vast Antonov-124 aircraft, and radar was installed.

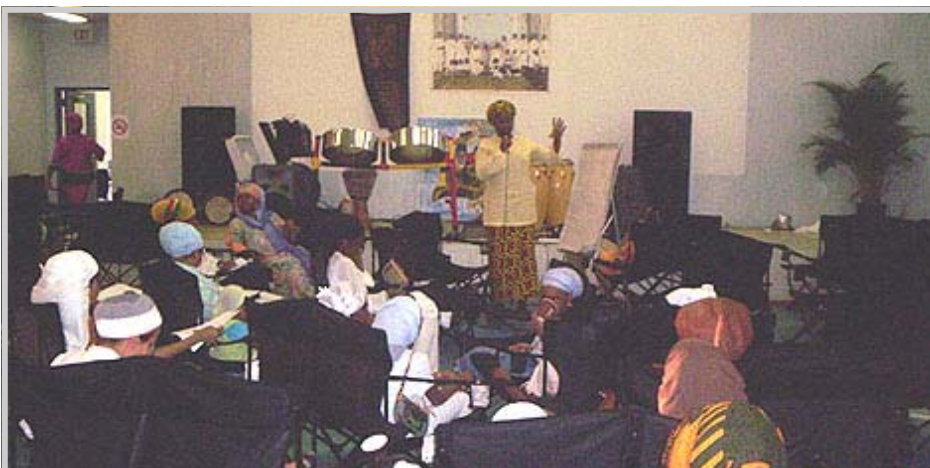
(Article from BBC News Online)



Axum field of Obelisks

Empress of Zion 2005 Conference Pictorial Commentary

By Sis Kaley



Friday, March 27th

Sistah Wolete hosted the reasoning on Principles, Morals and Ethics for an African-centered curriculum. The focus was based on the ancient principles of Maa't, the Nguzo Saba, Marcus Mosiah Garvey and Self-reliance, Self-awareness and Self-confidence. EOZ will be releasing a report on the conference in the near future.



Friday, March 27th
A royal sistren vending ilahful Rastafari merchandise at the side door of the Art Temple venue.



Sunday, March 29th

Breaking bread, the sistren came together to reason an over-view of the 4 day conference, block a sound on ideas for next year's conference and further discuss what ones would like to see in organizing the Rastafari curriculum.

Dawta to Dawta

Uplifting, love-filled, royal in stature—these are the qualities the Rastafari woman carries. When the I meet and greet a sistren who holds His Majesty in her heart, the I will notice that there is strength in her silence and wisemind in her chosen words.

Locks crowned with a wrap of humility, head held level with grace and eyes straightforward, surveying Babylon with dignity, this sistren is indeed in possession of herself. There is no second-guessing, nor veiled motivation.

True, the sistren is covered, but notice she hides nothing as her

heart is wide open to lverstanding and discernment. But be aware, her mind is closed to folly and mischief makers and her feet trad not upon the path of the wicked.

Indeed she learned her lessons well and acknowledges that pain and sufferation is often a “chosen” route. Finding no more comfort nor solace in the unhappy results of system mis-education, this sistren chose the road less traveled.

She’ll never lie and say it’s been easy, but today she flowers with the fruits of her labor. In so doing, to her youths she passes on a legacy of triumph rather than de-

feat; inspiration rather than shame; pride rather than conceit; and joyful love rather than painful fear and dysfunction.

Her delight in, and obedience to, the Word is written on her face. With a peaceful smile, allow her to share, her testimony to the benefits of LIFE—for she is fruitful and multiplies goodness in abundance.

She is a comfort to her Kingman, as she trads alongside him. Yes, she celebrates his presence and his Kingly stature.

A royal trad for a truly good woman!



Dezarie, Roots Empress



Ises to His Majesty

Glory to His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Haile Sellassie I, Power of the Holy Trinity, King of Kings, Lords of Lords, the Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Elect of Himself, 225th descendant of King Solomon.

Honor to Her Imperial Majesty, Empress Menen, Mother of the nation, defender of right causes, uplifting and encouraging, and prayerful.

Giving thanks that InI were not forsaken but were given an unbroken, unconquerable royal lineage from the beginnings of time.

Not

Sistrenltes wishes to encourage the sistren and bredren to engage the Rastafari community through the Is own WordSound. Everyone has wisemind and knowledge that a next Idren can use and will be encouraged to read. Please contact sistreniteseditor@rastafarionline.com if the I would like to begin sharing Word-Sound; essays, poetry, testimony, stories. InI encourage the Is to come forward!