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Rastafari: A Way Of Life



Synopsis

This book takes the reader, in both fascinating text and stunning photography, deep into Jamaica, the birthplace of Rastafarianism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is my second copy of this book, I loaned out the first one and never got it back, lol. Very informative and is a great introduction curious about the origins of Rastafarianism, it's beliefs and traditions.

Synopsis (From the back cover)During the 1920s, Marcus Garvey's "back to Africa" philosophy affected much of the thinking of the African diaspora of the Western Hemisphere. Nowhere was he more influential than in Jamaica, his island homeland, for here was a greatly exploited people, most of whom were directly descended from slaves. In one of his speeches, Garvey, already revered as a prophet in Jamaica, said: "Look to Africa, when a Black King shall be crowned, for the day of deliverance is near."1930 witnessed the splendorous coronation of Ras Tafari, an Ethiopian baron, as the Emperor Haile Selassie, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Selassie was a direct descendant of David in a line of Ethiopian kings stretching in unbroken succession from the time of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. This event sent many religious Jamaicans to their Bibles, where they found support for this in Revelations, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and other books. Before long, religious leaders on the island were saying that Garvey's prophecy had

been fulfilled and preached to the people to consider Haile Selassie the Living God and call themselves "Ras Tafari" in his honor. These are the rough beginnings of the Rastafarians. In the years since then, they have become a very important subculture in Jamaica. Recognized by their long, entwined "dreadlocks" and beards; their religious use of ganja (marijuana), which they feel has healing spiritual powers; their "mutant" English and their profound influence over Jamaica's internationally admired reggae music; yet little is known of their history, lifestyle and beliefs. This book takes the reader, in both fascinating text and stunning photography, deep into Jamaica, the birthplace of Rastafarianism, on a trip through the intricate webbing of these African roots and their outposts in the Western Hemisphere.

The book is a truly revealing account of the traditional Rastafarian. Rastafarian culture, custom and livelihood is a way of life. It is not for the faint of heart individual. As a person of Jamaican birth I am happy to know that these books exist. At least the ignorant and less informed individuals can become more informed about an important aspect of Jamaican religious life. There was a time in the 70's when some people thought that Rastafari would fade away. Instead it has gotten stronger with the passage of time. Thanks to the increased availability of more books, music and video.

I always wanted a copy of this book. Now it will be a great asset to my library!! Thanks again.

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