

ASAP (African Solutions to African Problems)

ASAP aptly describes the urgency of Africa's plight in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our need to turn a corner is indeed overwhelming. A return to self-knowledge must underpin our quest for solutions to African problems.

The struggle for freedom began with the first boatload that left the shores of Africa for enforced exile in the West. It continued throughout a 400-year-long *maafa*. Emancipation, Colonialism and Independence were merely aspects of extended enslavement. Our minds were still shackled by spiritual and cultural bondage at home and abroad.

The ongoing struggle rose to a crescendo in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. An obscure disparaged minority arose in the Caribbean, encapsulating the cumulative hopes of the Diaspora in a reformed African lifestyle known as Rastafari.

Since the 1930s this seed of resistance has suffered every form of State, Church and social persecution, surviving the ultimate threat of genocide. Yet it has remained faithful to its essentially African mantra, Peace and Love. (*Ubuntu, ngumuntu, ngabantu*)

Today this African Redemption movement is at the root of every nation on the Continent. Its tentacles cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Precious life is forged in the cauldron of affliction. Rastafari is the jewel that reflects on all aspects of African identity, culture, heritage, spirituality and economics. The movement celebrates our core values: intimacy with nature, love for fellow beings, equality and justice for one and all.

Rastafari's ability to provide indigenous solutions to Africa's problems is second to none. We are returning home to reignite our inter-connectedness so cruelly severed for centuries. We would miss this juncture at our peril. Rastafari is the powerhouse of African renaissance, hence its instinctive appeal for African youth. The top-down system has effectively entrenched our present-day malaise. Any holistic recovery can only come from the roots upward.

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27/11/13

Ghana