

PRAYER of RENUNCIATION: RASTAFARIANISM



Ephesians 6:10-11, 18 “10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong** in the Lord, and in the **power** of his might. 11 Put on the whole **armour** of God, that ye may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil. 18 **Pray** at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all prayer and entreaty. To that end **keep alert** and **watch** with strong purpose and **perseverance**, interceding in behalf of all the **saints** (God’s consecrated people).”

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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Preface

These prayers have been written according to personal opinions and convictions, which are gathered from many counseling sessions and our interpretation of the Word of GOD, the Bible.

In no way have these prayers been written to discriminate against any persons, churches, organizations, and/or political parties. We ask therefore that you handle this book in the same manner.

What does it mean to renounce something?

To renounce means to speak of one's self. If something has been renounced it has been rejected, cut off, or the individual is refusing to follow or obey. Other words that fit with the subject of renunciations include refuse, repudiate, and resist. It is a joy to realize that by the act of our repentance, we can appropriate the finished work of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus). His shed Blood reverses all curses.

Scripture says:

Proverbs 28:13 *"13 He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes his sins will obtain mercy."*

We have seen the effect in so many people's lives of confessing, repenting, and turning away from the idolatry and demonic covenants that have permeated their very existence, unbeknown to them. The fact that this exists is truly an evil demonic plot against the Body of Messiah.

2 Corinthians 4:2 *"2 We have renounced disgraceful ways (secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame); we refuse to deal craftily (to practice trickery and cunning) or to adulterate or handle dishonestly the Word of GOD, but we state the truth openly (clearly and candidly). And so we commend ourselves in the sight and presence of GOD to every man's conscience."*

Y'shua (Jesus) calls us to be actively engaged seeking freedom and wholeness, no matter what our life experiences.

GOD's Word gives us a promise:

Isaiah 54:17 *"17 But no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the LORD [those in whom the ideal Servant of the LORD is reproduced]; this is the righteousness or the vindication which they obtain from Me [this is that which I impart to them as their justification], says the LORD."*

Guidelines for using the prayers of renunciation ...

The Book of James highlights very clearly for us that there is a two-fold step in order to be released from all bondages.

James 4:7 *"7 So be subject to GOD. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you."*

The two-legged renunciation of occultic involvement is:

1. Confession of involvement.

To confess involvement, the prayer is read out loud, preferably with one or more witnesses present, as well as with a trained counselor. The reason for this is so that the individual will have a memorial of remembrance of the renunciation prayer. These prayers are similar to proclamations ... as such we encourage you to declare them boldly and in faith, covered by the Blood of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus).

James 5:16 *"16 Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."*

Only half of the renunciation process has been completed at this stage. The next part is very important. This is where the counselor is essential.

2. Warfare ... resist the enemy.

The counselor now comes in agreement with the individual and conducts spiritual warfare against the kingdom of darkness as the Holy Spirit leads to deal with each one of the elements that is contained in the prayer.

In writing these prayers, we have tried to highlight or bold certain key words — such as the powers of darkness involved and the effects of involvement — that we feel are important, and which need to be specially addressed.

The powers are rebuked, bound, uprooted from the bloodline, and commanded to become a footstool to the Messiah Y'shua (Jesus). Remember to also cut the individual loose from the man-made laws and institutions of the organization/s involved.

These prayers are however only a *guideline*.

If there are concepts or sections that the Holy Spirit highlights for you as you pray, then we encourage you to address these, and ask the Holy Spirit to direct you on how to bring the breakthrough.

Remember, He is our Perfect Teacher and Counselor!

Psalm 110:1 *“THE LORD (GOD) says to my Lord (the Messiah), Sit at My right hand, until I make Your adversaries Your footstool. [Matt. 26:64; Acts 2:34; I Cor. 15:25; Col. 3:1; Heb. 12:2.]”*

Hebrews 1:13, 10:13 *“13 Besides, to which of the angels has He ever said, Sit at My right hand [associated with Me in My royal dignity] till I make your enemies a stool for your feet? [Ps. 110:1.] 13 Then to wait until His enemies should be made a stool beneath His feet. [Ps. 110:1.]”*

3. Restoration with the Kingdom of GOD.

Finally, the individual must choose to submit under the Law of Messiah Y’shua (Jesus).

Galatians 3:10 *“10 And all who depend on the Law [who are seeking to be justified by obedience to the Law of rituals] are under a curse and doomed to disappointment and destruction, for it is written in the Scriptures, Cursed (accursed, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment) be everyone who does not continue to abide (live and remain) by all the precepts and commands written in the Book of the Law and to practice them.”*

In conclusion, we leave you with the blessing commanded by the FATHER ... May He be your Shield, your Light, and Shalom (Peace). May He grant you the victory in all things, that you may learn of His Ways, and SH’MA¹ (hear and do).

Blessings!

¹ For additional study, please see the article *“Sh’ma — A Hebraic Concept That Everyone Can Embrace”* written by William G. Bullock, Sr., available from the website.

Declaration² of CONFIDENCE in GOD's Protection

No weapon that is formed against us shall prosper and every tongue, which rises against us in judgment, we do condemn. This is our heritage as servants of the LORD, and our righteousness is from You, O LORD of Hosts. If there are those who have been speaking or praying against us, or seeking harm or evil to us, or who have rejected us, we forgive them and, having forgiven them, we bless them in the Name of the LORD

Matthew 5:43-45 *"43 You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy; 44 But I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 To show that you are the children of your FATHER Who is in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the wicked and on the good, and makes the rain fall upon the upright and the wrongdoers [alike]."*

Romans 12:14 *"14 Bless those who persecute you [who are cruel in their attitude toward you]; bless and do not curse them."*

Now we declare, O LORD, that You and You alone are our GOD, and besides You there is no other — a just GOD and Saviour, the FATHER, the Son and the Spirit — and we worship You!

We submit ourselves afresh to You this day in unreserved obedience. Having submitted to You, LORD, we do as Your Word directs. We resist the devil — all his pressures, his attacks, and his deceptions, every instrument or agent he would seek to use against us. We do not submit! We resist him, drive him from us and exclude him from us in the Name of Y'shua (Jesus). Specifically, we reject and repel infirmity, pain, infection, inflammation, malignancies, allergies, viruses and every form of witchcraft.

Finally, LORD, we thank You that through the sacrifice of Y'shua (Jesus) on the cross, we have passed out from under the curse and entered into the blessing of Abraham, whom You blessed in all things — exaltation, health, reproduction, prosperity, victory and GOD's Favour.

Galatians 3:13-14 *"13 Christ purchased our freedom [redeeming us] from the curse (doom) of the Law [and its condemnation] by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified); 14 To the end that through [their receiving] Christ Jesus, the blessing [promised] to Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, so that we through faith might [all] receive [the realization of] the promise of the [Holy] Spirit."*

AMEN!

² Written by Derek and Ruth Prince

Sealing-Off Prayer **BEFORE** Deliverance

Dear Heavenly FATHER, we come to You in the Name of Messiah Y'shua³ (Jesus Christ) of Nazareth. We thank You that You are GOD Almighty and that You are The Great I AM.

We thank You that You have given us the Holy Spirit to be the Counsellor, Standby, Advocate, Teacher, the Deliverer.

We thank You for Your Presence and for Your Deliverance Anointing — it is the Anointing that will break the yoke.

Come and fill us with Your Spirit, Compassion, Love, Discernment, Word of Knowledge, Wisdom, Interpretation, and Insight.

We as Your children choose to crucify the flesh so that nothing from ourselves will be transferred here. We clothe ourselves with Your Priestly Garments to fulfill the calling You have upon our lives. Open our spiritual eyes and ears FATHER.

Thank You FATHER, that You have given us all the power over the enemy and that nothing shall in any way harm us.

Luke 10: 19 *"19 Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you."*

We forbid any interference with the work of the Holy Spirit.

FATHER, we come against any communication lines (according to **Ephesians 6:12**) between, the powers, world-rulers, principalities, spiritual hosts, and demonic hosts in the air, earth, heavenlies, and under the earth. We close off all entrances and exits, in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

³ *Y'shua* (Hebrew) is Jesus' real name, which means "Salvation". We have no problem with the name "Jesus" — it is merely the Greek transliteration of "Y'shua". Jesus is the name most of us grew up with. Remember though, Y'shua was a Jew, of the Tribe of Judah, not a Greek. It's sort of like this ... when you come to know someone's real name, you want to use it, hence the use of *Y'shua* instead of Jesus. Another powerful reason to use Y'shua is that every time you say His Name, you are proclaiming "Salvation". You will also note in some places, we have used the real Name of the FATHER, YHVH. The Name is made up of the Hebrew letters, **Y**od-**H**ey-**V**av-**H**ey, and is most commonly pronounced "Yahweh" or "Jehovah". Again, we have chosen to use this, as YHVH is the FATHER's Name.

We ask that all spiritual cameras and recorders be smashed in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). We come against any witches, witch doctors, magicians, and wizards in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). We cut off all communication with satan himself and close the doors in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We forbid any spirit from the outside to enter this place for whatever reason, and we forbid any evil spirit to be sent to any other place or person as a result of what happens here.

We now forbid any reinforcement of power from the side of satan in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). FATHER, we ask for confusion into the enemy's camp.

FATHER we ask You to set up Your warring angels in this room and arrest any human spirit, dead human spirit, spirit guide, familiar spirit ... and remove them to become the footstool of our King Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We bind every evil spirit in this place and forbid any violence, manifestations, and tormenting in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We refuse any meditation circles — isolate any power of demonic forces from each other in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We forbid and bind any hypnosis and self-hypnosis, meditation, psychic powers in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) of Nazareth. We isolate the powers one from another in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We cleanse the four elements — water, air, fire, and earth — with the Blood of Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We ask You, FATHER, to cover all mirrors with Your Blood and seal off the gateways in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We come against any spells, rituals, incantations, hexes, sacrifices, curses, or altars raised up against us and the person.

Thank You that You blow out all candles which may have been lit in rituals against us in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). Thank You that all curses are reversed into blessings.

FATHER, we ask that You seal off this room with Your Precious Blood, that You will hide us in the Spirit and declare this room as holy ground.

FATHER, we ask You to send Your ministering angels to come and minister to us in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) according to:

Hebrews 1:14 *"14 Are not the angels all ministering spirits (servants) sent out in the service [of GOD for the assistance] of those who are to inherit salvation?"*

We surrender to You, Holy Spirit of GOD, because we know that it is not by might, nor by power, but by Your Spirit (Zechariah 4:6) says the FATHER!

We ask that You cover our loved ones and we place all circumstances under Your Control and Protection (our finances, marriages, relationships, ministries). We now bind satan's kingdom here on earth just as it is bound in heaven.

We ask You FATHER to prepare the heavenly courtroom and that all the demons and familiar spirits come and take their places.

We ask You FATHER to be the Judge, Y'shua (Jesus) the Advocate, and the Holy Spirit the Witness.

Thank You for Your Word:

Revelation 12:11 *"11 And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love and cling to life even when faced with death [holding their lives cheap till they had to die for their witnessing]."*

... we have overcome the enemy by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony!

In the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus),

AMEN!

*Prayer of renunciation
for Rastafarianism
(also know as
Ethiopianism) ...*

FATHER, in the Name of Messiah Y'shua [Jesus Christ] of Nazareth, I ask forgiveness for my involvement in Rastafarianism. I renounce this false religion and everything represented by it in the Name of Messiah Y'shua [Jesus Christ].

I renounce the false believe that Rastafarians were called to be the security and deliverers of the Khoi and Bushmen nation. I renounce the confessions made that Rastafarians are the leaders of the people spiritually and also the true prophets called by GOD. I renounce the belief that the heavenly angels are called to escort the Rastafari to his rightful position as the holy priests and uprising saints of the most high for the nation. I ask forgiveness in the Name of Messiah Y'shua [Jesus Christ] for using His Name as a name given by white people to use as a weapon to steal, kill and destroy the Khoi nation.

I renounce the false belief and confessions that all Christians are white man slave's and that the church is a weapon to oppress the people. I confess to the false appearance of humility in the Name of the Most High GOD. I confesses to the sin of calling my fellow Rastafarian brothers and sisters "lord" and "king", confessing that Messiah Y'shua [Jesus Christ] is not the Son of GOD and should not be called LORD.

I renounce the false believe that white people brought the term "LORD" with them and therefore have nothing to do with GOD but the english lords.

I believe that the Messiah, Messiah Y'shua [Jesus] of Nazareth, was born of the Tribe of Judah. I believe that Y'shua [Jesus] is the only begotten Son of GOD, and that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. I believe that Messiah Y'shua [Jesus] is the only Way, the Whole Truth, and the Eternal Life and that no one can come to the FATHER except through Him.

I believe that the Bible is the ONLY inspired Word of GOD, given to mankind for reproof, for correction, and instruction in righteousness.

I renounce, reject and deny the root of Rastafarianism ... the Universal Negro Improvement Association, founded by the false prophet **Marcus Mosiah Garvey**, a Jamaican of African heritage, with his motto "Africa for Africans" and his prophecy that an African king would become the Messiah.

I renounce, reject, deny and confess the roots of bitterness and hatred for the white man arising out of abductions, slavery and oppression. I confess, reject and renounce hatred for the Establishment and all that the white man and his society represent. I ask forgiveness and cleansing in the Name of Messiah Y'shua [Jesus Christ] from the bondages of hatred. I release all those responsible for the enslavement and abductions of black ancestors.

I reject, renounce and deny the claim that **Negus Tafari**, called Ras (prince) **Tafari**, also known as **Haillie Selassie**, was a direct descendant of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, and was the second “Jesus Christ” and was proclaimed “Messiah”. I renounce, reject and deny that Haillie Selassie (Ras Tafari) as the “king of kings”, “lord of lords”, and “conquering lion of Judah”.

I renounce, reject and deny that all the ancient Biblical prophets and scribes were all black, and that the Israelites about whom they wrote, were also black. I renounce, reject and deny that all white men are devils and that black men will only be free when they return to Africa.

I reject and deny that the Bible was written as a lesson to black people about the proper way to worship “JAH” (Rastafarian word for “God”). I reject and deny that the word “God” means “to be good”. I reject and deny that Babylon refers to the white man, all that his society embodies and the Establishment.

I reject, renounce and deny that the Rastafarians are the true Jews and that GOD became man, not as Messiah Y’shua [Jesus Christ], but as Haillie Selassie and that he is still alive, but living in another dimension.

I reject, renounce and deny that specific diets (such as vegetarianism) are requirements for Godly living and I confess that it is not what is put into the mouth which defiles, but that which proceeds from the mouth (**Matthew 15:11**).

I reject and renounce the Reggae (meaning “to the king”) music, promoting the smoking of dagga (ganja) and liberation. I reject and renounce the music of **Bob Marley** and the **Wailers** and any other **Reggae music** promoting and spreading Rastafarian ideas.

I renounce, reject and deny the symbolism attached to the Rasta colours (**red, green and yellow**, also the colours of the Ethiopian flag), which represent the rainbow and freedom from oppression.

I reject, renounce and deny that the reason for not cutting or washing my hair is founded on the Bible, but was dreadlocked to instill fear in others.

I renounce, reject and deny that marriage is sinful because it is part of the Establishment and that a man and a woman need to stay together only as long as they wish to. I confess that marriage is holy and ordained by GOD and that sexual relations outside of marriage is fornication and an abomination in the sight of GOD.

I reject, renounce and deny the **Rasta Salute to JAH** (clenched fist raised while declaring “JAH”).

I reject, renounce and deny that dagga (referred to as “ganja”) is a “weed of wisdom” or the “holy herb”, or that it is a medical, mental and spiritual food.

I reject, renounce and deny that the use of dagga is a means to meditate and communicate with “JAH”, in order to obtain spiritual fulfillment.

I reject, renounce and deny that the Rasta image reflects a carefree dagga-smoking lifestyle and confess that I have been in rebellion against the one True Living GOD.

I confess that I have used the Rastafarian religion and culture in order to rationalize, justify and excuse my dagga habit. I confess that my motives were for using the plant *cannbis* (dagga).

I reject, renounce and deny a belief in **reincarnation**. I reject, renounce and deny specifically for stating that Messiah Y’shua [Jesus Christ] is a reincarnation of Heil Sellasie.

By the power of the Blood of Messiah Y’shua [Jesus Christ] of Nazareth and by the authority of His Name I sever all spiritual ties with “JAH”, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Haillie Selassie and the present head of Rastafarianism, Premier Michael Manley in Kingston, Jamaica.

I rid myself of all fetishes, talismans, adornments and symbols of Rastafarianism such as photographs of Haillie Selassie, Rasta hats, dreadlocks and wearing of Rasta colours.

I renounce, reject and cancel any worship that I have offered to “JAH” or to the spirit of Haillie Selassie or any worship at Rasta Shrines or burning of joss-sticks.

I reject and deny myself the use of dagga as either a means of self-gratification or spiritual fulfillment and ask forgiveness for defiling my body, which is the temple of GOD. I ask forgiveness and cleansing in the Name of Messiah Y’shua [Jesus Christ]. I choose to turn from each and every aspect of Rastafarianism and I confess that Messiah Y’shua [Jesus Christ] is KING of kings, Lion of Judah, called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty GOD, Everlasting FATHER, Prince of Peace and KING Almighty.

I confess that I have rebelled against FATHER-GOD and my King and Saviour, Y’shua [Jesus]. I ask forgiveness and cleansing and mercy and grace to enable me to live a life that is pleasing and acceptable to GOD the FATHER, Y’shua [Jesus] the Son and the Holy Spirit.

AMEN!

History of dreadlocks ...

Dreadlocks⁴, also called locks, a ras, dreads, or Jata (Hindi), are matted coils of hair. Dreadlocks are usually intentionally formed; because of the variety of different hair textures, various methods are used to encourage the formation of locks such as backcombing. If the hair is not brushed or cut, it will tangle together as it grows, eventually resulting in the twisted, matted ropes of hair known as dreadlocks.

Dreadlocks are associated most closely with the Rastafari movement, but people from many groups in history before them have worn dreadlocks, including many Sadhus of India and the Sufi Rafees, the Maori people of New Zealand, the Maasai of East Africa, and the Sufi malangs and fakirs of Pakistan.

The first known examples of dreadlocks date back to East Africa and some parts of North Africa. Masai men found in the regions of northern Tanzania and southern Kenya have been wearing dreadlocks for as long as they have survived. There hasn't been official date of the "start" of Maasai dreadlocks, but it is a tradition that has been going on for thousands of years.[citation needed] Even today, Masai men can be found easily donning their dreadlocks, with a tint of red color from the soil.

Ancient Egypt In ancient dynastic Egypt examples of Egyptians wearing locked hairstyles and wigs have appeared on bas-reliefs, statuary and other artifacts. Mummified remains of ancient Egyptians with locks, as well as locked wigs, have also been recovered from archaeological sites.

The Hindu deity Shiva and his followers were described in the scriptures as wearing "jaTaa", meaning "twisted locks of hair", probably derived from the Dravidian word "Sadai", which means to twist or to wrap. The Greeks, the Pacific Ocean peoples, the Naga people and several ascetic groups within various major religions have at times worn their hair in locks, including the monks of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, the Nazirites of Judaism, Qalandari Sufi's the Sadhus of Hinduism, and the Dervishes of Islam among others.

Pre-Columbian Aztec priests were described in Aztec codices (including the Durán Codex, the Codex Tudela and the Codex Mendoza) as wearing their hair untouched, allowing it to grow long and matted.

In Senegal, the Baye Fall, followers of the Mouride movement, a sect of Islam indigenous to the country which was founded in 1887 by Shaykh Aamadu Bàmba Mbàkke, are famous for growing locks and wearing multi-colored gowns.

⁴ Research taken from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dreadlocks>

Cheikh Ibra Fall, founder of the Baye Fall school of the Mouride Brotherhood, popularized the style by adding a mystic touch to it, its important to note that warriors among fullani, wolof, serer and mandika were also known to have dreadlocks when old and cornrows when young for centuries.

In Jamaica the term dreadlocks was first recorded in the 1950s as a term for the "Young Black Faith", an early sect of the Rastafari which began among the marginalized poor of Jamaica in the 1930s, when they ceased to copy the particular hair style of Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia and began to wear dreadlocks instead. It was said that the wearer lived a "dread" life or a life in which he feared "God", which gave birth to the modern name "dreadlocks" for this ancient style.

Many Rastafari attribute their dreadlocks as a dedication to Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia as well as the three Nazarite vows, in the Book of Numbers, the fourth of the books of the Pentateuch.

There are many reasons among various cultures for wearing locks. Locks can be an expression of deep religious or spiritual convictions, a manifestation of ethnic pride, a political statement, or be simply a fashion preference. In response to the derogatory history of the term dreadlocks, alternative names for the style include locks and African Locks.

- **Africa**

Africans and people of African descent are known to wear this hairstyle. Members of various African ethnic groups wear locks and the styles and significance may change from one group to another.

The Ashanti people and other related Akan groups of Ghana reserved dreadlocks for their spiritual leaders or okomfo . The co-founder of the Ashanti Empire, Okomfo Anokye is believed to have worn dreadlocks. In modern Ghana, dreadlocks now have a negative connotation and are associated with spiritualism that is contrary to Christianity.

The warriors of the Maasai nation of Kenya are famous for their long, thin, red dreadlocks. Many people dye their hair red with root extracts or red ochre. In various cultures what are known as Fetish priests, sangomas, or shamans, spiritual men or women who serve and speak to spirits or deities, often wear locks. In Benin the Yoruba priests of Olokun, the Orisha of the deep ocean, wear locks. The Himba people in the southeast of Congo-Kinshasa also dye their locks red, but their style is thicker than that of the Maasai. Other groups include the Fang people of Gabon, the Mende of Sierra Leone, and the Turkana people of Kenya.

Africans brought the hairstyle with them to the Americas during the African diaspora. As a result of this the style can still be seen on people of African descent in North America, South America and the Caribbean.

Well-known Black artists who wear or have worn locks include musicians Allen "Matchstick" Forrest, Bob Marley, George Clinton, Bobby McFerrin, Tracy Chapman, Lauryn Hill, Busta Rhymes, Erykah Badu, KRS-One, Wyclef Jean, will.i.am, Dante Santiago (Black Eyed Peas), Gary Dourdan, Lisa Bonet, Lenny Kravitz, Eddy Grant, Lil Wayne, T-Pain, Ol' Dirty Bastard, Waka Flocka Flame and bands Bad Brains and Living Colour; authors Alice Walker and Toni Morrison; and actors Whoopi Goldberg, Rosalind Cash, Malcolm-Jamal Warner and Keith Hamilton Cobb, Debra Wilson.

Throughout the diaspora, particularly in America, dreadlock styling and maintenance for Africans has grown and evolved to be increasingly stylistic. In the early 90's, Dr. JoAnne Cornwell launched a versatile hair care system that involved creating fine dreaded tresses called "Sisterlocks" or "Brotherlocks." The company Sisterlocks has promoted the spread of the techniques of sisterlocking since 1993.

The Rastafarians wear locks as an expression of inner spirituality and to emphasize their identity. Their religion states that they must remain "whole".

Another interpretation among the Rastafari is that "dread" refers to the fear that dreadlocked Mau Mau warriors inspired among the colonial British. The Mau Mau, a largely ethnic Kikuyu rebel group in Kenya fighting to overthrow the state government of the British Colony and Protectorate of Kenya from 1952–1960, hid for many years in the forests, during which time their hair grew into long locks. The images of their rebellion, then broadcast around the world, are said to have inspired Jamaican Rastafari to wear locks.

Dreadlocks on a Rasta's head are symbolic of the Lion of Judah which is sometimes centered on the Ethiopian Flag. Rastas hold that Selassie is a direct descendant of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, through their son Menelik I. Rastas also believe African people are the descendants of the Israelites' Tribe of Judah through the lineage of Kings of Israel David and Solomon, and that he is also the Lion of Judah mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

It is speculated by few, that migration of thousands of Hindus from India to the Caribbean in the 19th and 20th century may have brought this culture to Jamaica. However, claims such as this are controversial and lack historical accuracy. Sadhus were not one of the groups of people brought in droves to the island of Jamaica. It is also worthy to note that in a relatively short period of time, the vast majority of Hindu worshippers, had converted to Christianity when they were introduced to the island. These indentured labourers eventually assimilated into generic Jamaican culture. Therefore making any real or substantial influence of Indian indentured labourers on the culture of Jamaica other than the addition of select dishes such as those with Curry spice incorporated into them, an unlikely event. The morale for Rastafarianism also serves as further evidence towards the inaccuracy of such claims. Post-Abolition of slavery gave birth to the class system.

The construct of the class system was that Caucasians were viewed as the elite class, and any groups having Caucasian features, or admixture were considered second class, with Africans and their descendants' general characteristics at the bottom, being least desirable. Inspired by Mau Mau rebels, dreadlocks were the Rastafarians' way of non-verbally expressing a resistance to conforming to Eurocentric ideals of beauty and that which was deemed appropriate and appealing. One of the founding principles of Rastafarianism was "The complete superiority of the black race" Which made it highly illogical and unlikely that the founders of Rastafarianism would have looked toward another culture for inspiration, other than African.

- **Hinduism**

Similarly, among some Sadhus and Sadhvis, Indian holy men and women, locks are sacred, considered to be a religious practice and an expression of their disregard for profane vanity, as well as a symbol of their spiritual understanding that physical appearances are unimportant. The public symbol of matted hair is re-created each time an individual goes through these unique experiences.[citation needed] In almost all myths about Shiva and his flowing locks, there is a continual interplay of extreme asceticism and virile potency, which link the elements of destruction and creation, whereas the full head of matted hair symbolizes the control of power.

Gangadhara Shiva captures and controls the river Ganges with his locks, whose descent from the heavens would have deluged the world. The river is released through the locks of his hair, which prevents the river from destroying earth. As the Lord of Dance, Nataraja, Shiva performs the tandava, which is the dance in which the universe is created, maintained, and resolved. Shiva's long, matted tresses, usually piled up in a kind of pyramid, loosen during the dance and crash into the heavenly bodies, knocking them off course or destroying them utterly.

Locks in India are reserved nearly exclusively for holy people. According to the "Hymn of the longhaired sage" in the ancient Vedas, long jatas express a spiritual significance which implies the wearer has special relations with spirits, is an immortal traveler between two worlds and the master over fire:

The long-haired one endures fire, the long-haired one endures poison, the long-haired one endures both worlds. The long-haired one is said to gaze full on heaven, the long-haired one is said to be that light ... Of us, you mortals, only our bodies do you behold. ...For him has the Lord of life churned and pounded the unbendable, when the long-haired one, in Rudra's company, drank from the poison cup (The Keshin Hymn, Rig-veda 10.136)

The Shaiva Nagas, ascetics of India, wear their jata (long hair) in a twisted knot or bundle on top of the head and let them down only for special occasions and rituals. The strands are then rubbed with ashes and cowdung, considered both sacred and purifying, then scented and adorned with flowers.

- **Buddhism**

Within Tibetan Buddhism and other more esoteric forms of Buddhism, dreadlocks have occasionally been substituted for the more traditional shaved head. The most recognizable of these groups are known as the Ngagpas of Tibet. For many practicing Buddhists, dreadlocks are a way to let go of material vanity and excessive attachments.

- **Islam**

A few Sufi groups such as the Qalandari sects do not cut or comb their hair, however it is unknown how this relates to their specific religious practices or Islamic thought. This leads to natural formation of dreadlocks. However, some of them will be very thick and others thin or untwisted because the actual making of dreadlocks and giving it a regular look is frowned upon. This process of dreadlock formation takes many years.

- **Western Styles**

When reggae music gained popularity and mainstream acceptance in the 1970s, the locks (often called "dreads") became a notable fashion statement; they were worn by prominent authors, actors, athletes and rappers, and were even portrayed as part and parcel of gang culture in such movies as *Marked for Death*.

With the Rasta style in vogue, the fashion and beauty industries capitalized on the trend. A completely new line of hair care products and services in salons catered to a white clientele, offering all sorts of dreadlocks hair care items such as wax (considered unnecessary and even harmful by many), shampoo, and jewelry. Hairstylists created a wide variety of modified locks, including multi-colored synthetic lock hair extensions and "dread perms", where chemicals are used to treat the hair.

Locked models appeared at fashion shows, and Rasta clothing with a Jamaican-style reggae look was sold. Even exclusive fashion brands like Christian Dior created whole Rasta-inspired collections worn by models with a variety of lock hairstyles.

In the West, dreadlocks have gained particular popularity among counterculture adherents such as hippies (from the 1990s onwards), crust punks, New Age travellers, and many members of the Rainbow Family. Many people of those these two cultures wear dreadlocks for similar reason, symbolizing a rejection of government-controlled, mass-merchandising culture. However many of the Rastafarian community see this as a form of imperialism and an appropriation of their Black Liberation and Pan-African ideology that re-invoked the use of dread locks to communicate the freedom struggles of people of color world wide.

It was/is seen in the hyphy and goth scenes. Members of the cybergoth subculture also often wear blatantly artificial synthetic dreads or "dreadfalls" made of synthetic hair, fabric or plastic tubing.

Since the rise of the popularity of dreadlocks, Blacks mostly in the Americas and the Caribbean have developed a large variety of ways to wear dreadlocked Afro-textured hair. Specific elements of these styles include the flat-twist, in which a section of locks are roll together flat against the scalp to create an effect similar to the cornrow, and braided dreadlocks. Examples include flat-twisted half-back styles, flat-twisted mohawk styles, braided buns and braid-outs (or lock crinkles). Social networking websites, web forums, web-logs and especially online video-logs like YouTube have become popular methods for people with dreadlocks to transmit ideas, pictures and tutorials for innovative styles.

Additional⁵ history on DREADLOCKS

- **Celts and Druids**

The Celts were a diverse group of people whose empire once spanned the European continent. Archeological digs from Halstadt, Germany to the Orkney Isles of Scotland have uncovered evidence of Celtic settlements as far back as the late Bronze Age (1550BC-1200BC).

Recent archeological digs in Eastern Europe and Asia Minor indicate the possibility that the Celts were not indigenous to Europe at all. This theory is the migratory theory; when applied the Celts sometime in the millennia of the Bronze Age entered Europe from somewhere in Asia Minor. It wasn't long before they settled in the region of the Danube River basin and soon began raiding and conquering their neighbors. The Celtic conquest continued until their tribal lands covered most of Western Europe, from the Danube to Rome and westward as far as current-day Belgium.

It is believed that the Druids were the shamans and mystics of the Celts, their dreadlocks holding similar divine significance in their roles as holy people. Some speculate that Celtic warriors sported dreadlocks as an intimidation tactic.

The empire of the Celts had a fast rise, but eventually in the face of Roman domination, they were forced to disperse and/ or assimilate, to Gaul, France, Ireland, Greece, etc. after which they dropped almost entirely off the radar.

⁵ Excerpt from <http://www.dreadlockssite.com/forum/topics/ancient-cultural-history-of>

- **Scandinavian Norse/Vikings**

(AD793-1050) The Vikings were prolific seafaring warriors from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Vikings also established farming communities and trade ports all over Europe with their rise. Viking warriors were said to wear their hair in locks, I believe for reasons similar to other locked warriors, for intimidation ...

WRAPPING-UP Prayer AFTER Deliverance (for the counsellor)

Dear Heavenly FATHER,

Thank You for the work being done here today. We pray against any whiplash, backlash, and judgment from the enemy in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We ask FATHER, that You will cut any un-Godly spirit/soul-ties formed in the spirit because of the deliverance that took place, also any transference that took place between their spirit, soul, and body to my spirit, soul and body. We plant the Cross of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) between myself and the counselee. Thank You that no transference will take place. We take Your Comprehensive Insurance for our families, relationships, and possessions.

We ask that You will cleanse and purify this property and this room with the Blood of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) of Nazareth and Your Holy Fire, that no demon will attach itself to any object and all human and dead human spirits be removed by Your escort angels to the footstool of King Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). That all defilement be removed and swept away with Your Broom of destruction in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

FATHER, we ask that You remove any watchdog and marker demons, that have been assigned by the kingdom of darkness to mark the property in the spirit for a counter attack through astral projection, to the Feet of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We also want to declare the Kingship of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) of Nazareth over this place and that all openings⁶ are sealed off with Your Blood.

AMEN!

Remember to go before the FATHER and shower yourself with the Water of the Word. You may also want to perform a *mikvah*⁷ (baptism), to symbolize a cleansing after deliverance. Remember too to enter into praise and worship and fill yourself with the FATHER's Presence again.

⁶ Openings include telephone and fax lines, computers, water pipes and sewerage, electricity circuits, Wi-Fi networks.

⁷ For additional study, see our book "*J2F Understanding Water Baptism And The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit*"

In closing, after these curses have been dealt with and broken, it is very important to restore BLESSINGS ... we want to encourage *fathers* to take this calling seriously, and to begin **BLESSING** their families according to the Commandment of the LORD that the priests bless with the following blessing ...

The Priestly Blessing ...

Numbers 6:24-26

“²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:
²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

The Priestly Blessing ...

Hebraic Translation⁸

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and He will guard you with a hedge of protection, YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being toward you, bringing order, and He will provide you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look upon you, and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete."

⁸ Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html

The Priestly Blessing¹

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

and may he guard you the LORD may he bless you

May the LORD² bless you³ and keep you⁴

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְךָ:

and show you favor on you his face the LORD May he shine

May the LORD make His face⁵ shine⁶ upon you and be gracious⁷ to you

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

peace for you and establish on you his face the LORD may he lift up

May the LORD lift up⁸ his face to you and give you peace⁹

¹ This blessing is (ritually) recited (by the kohanim) during synagogue services during *Nesiat Kapayim* ("the Raising of the Hands"), though it is also recited over children on Friday night before the start of the Shabbat meal or as a bedtime blessing.

² The name *YHVH* (יהוה) represents God's attributes of love and mercy (מִדַּת הַרַחֲמִים), in contradistinction to the name *Elohim* (אֱלֹהִים), which represents God's attribute of justice and power as our Creator.

³ בְּרַכָּה (*b'rachah*). Jewish tradition considers this both material and spiritual prosperity. Pirkei Avot 3:15 says, "If there is no flour, there is no Torah," by which is meant that material benefits are intended to help you pursue study of Torah. The first occurrence of the word "blessing" in the Scriptures pertains to *pru urvu* (פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ), "be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22).

⁴ שָׁמַר (*shamar*): To guard, protect, heed, as in the exercise of diligent care. Only God has the power to secure the conferred blessing and keep it from turning sour or from fading away.

⁵ The word for "face" (פָּנִים) is plural with the 3rd person singular ending. It is considered metaphorical since God is incorporeal. The plural form is thought by some to indicate God's revealed and hidden attributes in creation.

⁶ The hiphil verb (יָאֵר) comes from the word "light" (אֹר), and is thought to refer to God's wisdom. "May God enlighten you" with His wisdom, i.e., the Divine Light that preceded the work of creation (Gen. 1:3).

⁷ May God grant you grace or favor (חֵן), i.e., to understand the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love (Eph. 3:18). Grace refers to the bestowal of an undeserved gift. The blessing is bestowed even though unearned or unmerited.

⁸ Since one's face is an indication of the heart's attitude, Rashi says that this means God will suppress His anger by "looking at you" (if God is angry at you, He "turns His face away" and refuses to admit your presence). The "lifting of face" also pictures God lifting you up as a father might lift up his child in joy. The "showing of face" indicates spiritual intimacy.

⁹ All of the other blessings are useless without the establishment of inner peace, and therefore it is the seal of the blessing. Shalom (שְׁלוֹם) is not simply the absence of strife, but a balance and harmony between the finite and infinite, the temporal and the eternal, the material and the spiritual realms. Shalom is a gift from Sar Shalom (שַׂר שְׁלוֹם), the Prince of Peace.