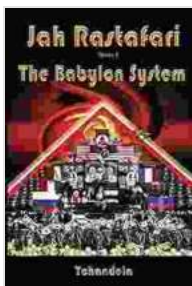


# Jah Rastafari: Unveiling the Babylon System's Grip

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The Rastafari movement, characterized by its devotion to Jah (God) and its opposition to oppression, has its roots in Jamaica. At the heart of Rastafari ideology lies the concept of the "Babylon System," a symbol of injustice and degradation. This article delves into the intricate tapestry of the Babylon System, exploring its historical origins, manifestations, and Rastafari's perspective on its insidious influence.

## The Genesis of the Babylon System



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The term "Babylon" originated in ancient Mesopotamia, referring to the city of Babel. According to biblical accounts, Babylon became synonymous with oppression, division, and corruption. This concept was inherited by subsequent civilizations, including the Rastafari.

Rastafari believes that the Babylon System is not confined to a specific geographical location but permeates all aspects of modern society. They see it as a system designed to control and exploit the masses, perpetuating inequality and injustice.

## **Manifestations of the Babylon System**

Rastafari identifies various manifestations of the Babylon System, including:

- **Materialism and Consumerism:** The pursuit of wealth and status, creating a culture of greed and envy.
- **Colonialism and Imperialism:** The subjugation of weaker nations and cultures by powerful ones.
- **Racism and White Supremacy:** The systematic discrimination and oppression of those perceived as inferior.
- **Political Corruption:** The misuse of power for personal gain and the suppression of dissent.
- **War and Violence:** The perpetuation of conflict and suffering, serving the interests of the ruling elite.

## **Rastafari's Resistance to Babylon**

Rastafari views the Babylon System as an abomination that must be resisted and overcome. Their path of resistance manifests through:

- **Spiritual Liberation:** The pursuit of spiritual enlightenment and connection with Jah.

- **Rejection of Materialism:** Embracing simplicity, self-reliance, and communal living.
- **Nonviolent Resistance:** Advocating for peace, unity, and justice through nonviolent methods.
- **Back to Africa Movement:** Recognizing their African heritage and striving for repatriation to their homeland.

## **The Role of Dreadlocks in Rastafari**

Dreadlocks, an iconic symbol of Rastafari identity, carry deep symbolic significance. Rastafari believe that dreadlocks promote spiritual growth, connect them with their ancestors, and symbolize their rejection of Babylon's standards of beauty and conformity.

## **Ras Tafari Makonnen and the Promise of Reparations**

The name "Rastafari" is derived from Ras Tafari Makonnen, the former Emperor of Ethiopia who later became known as Haile Selassie I. Rastafari revere Haile Selassie as the embodiment of God (Jah) and the messianic figure who will lead them to liberation and reparations for centuries of oppression.

## **Bob Marley and the Global Impact of Rastafari**

The music of Bob Marley played a pivotal role in spreading the message of Rastafari worldwide. His songs, infused with themes of peace, justice, and spirituality, inspired countless people to question the Babylon System and embrace the Rastafari worldview.

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The Babylon System, as perceived by Rastafarians, represents the oppressive forces that seek to stifle human freedom and dignity. Rastafari's resistance to Babylon emphasizes spiritual awakening, nonviolent resistance, and the pursuit of a just and equitable world. By challenging the status quo and advocating for universal liberation, Rastafarians offer a powerful voice against the ills of society.

Through their unique culture and unwavering commitment to Jah, Rastafari continue to inspire and ignite hope among those who seek a world devoid of oppression and injustice.



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