

June 17, 2020 Coral Ridge Cemetery, Christ Church, Barbados

Greetings in the names of HIM Emperor Haile Selassie 1<sup>st</sup> and Empress Menen.

I am saddened but grateful to be asked to present this eulogy on behalf of our brother Ras Iral Jabari.

Francis Augustus Carl Talma entered this most recent physical realm of existence on July 25, 1950. He reached 69 years of age. He was the son of Francis Talma and Muriel Talma nee Worrell. At the time of his birth his residence was at Worthing, Christ Church and that was the area where he grew up. He attended the St. Lawrence primary school and the Harrison College secondary school. At secondary school he did well academically especially in science and mathematics, and he was an avid cricketer where he was captain of the school's second division team. I overstand that he was called "Rocking Horse" because of his bowling action. He also attended the St. Augustine campus, of the University of the West Indies, located in the island of Trinidad.

Francis Carl Talma had a total of six children. They are Isala Talma-Griffith, Negus Talma, Hailu Kamau and Hailu Abebe Talma both deceased, Makonnen Talma and Metasebia Talma.

Carl was married to the late Margaret Talma who transitioned in 2015 after a short illness. They resided at Todds, St. John for 25 years. That was his final physical residence. The children from that union Makonnen and Meti, are here today. Carl loved all his children and always spoke fondly of each. He added though that his older children said that sometimes it seemed that he attended to Rastafari issues more than his family issues and that caused him some amount of regret.

At the time of his transition Ras Iral was the co-chair of the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation (CRO) and the Rastafari representative on the Caribbean Pan-African Network (CPAN).

It is true to say that being a Rastaman was the major inspiration in and of Ras Iral's life. He was a proud Rastaman of the Nyabinghi order. Nothing touched his life like his devotion to HIM Emperor Haile Selassie 1<sup>st</sup> and Empress Menen. He largely financed the construction of the Mount Carmel, St. John Nyabinghi tabernacle where he gave thanks and praises to the creator for the duration of his life since following the Rastafari faith. He was always concern with the upkeep of the tabernacle and was making plans to be involved in major renovations that are planned for the site. But not only was he a Rastaman with a religious persuasion, he also had a passion that Rastafari culture and communities had to become involved in human rights matters given the fact that the wider society made Rastafari people an ostracized and marginalized culture.

Ras Iral would always speak of his association with the Nyabinghi order of Rastafari and his travels to various Caribbean islands spreading this word. He would speak of the centenary trod in 1992 when he as a young Rastafari traveled with Ras Boanerges, the Nyabinghi spiritual leader from Jamaica, to 13 Caribbean islands to meet and greet ones in the name of Rastafari. He used his home at Todds, to host visitors from across the globe and as a meeting place to make serious visionary plans for the Rastafari nation. He was a major planner for the International Rastafari Conference and Trade Fair held at the Sherborne Conference Centre and Queen's Park respectively in 1998. Ras Iral always placed advocacy for the rights of Rastafari at the forefront of what was necessary in our Barbados society. As such in 1995 he asked that a set of guidelines be drafted for the treatment of Rastafari children in the

public-school system. He together with the late Ras Ikael Tafari, took on the task of sensitizing the authorities to the recommendations for respectful interaction between teachers and Rastafari youth. This was in a period when the school system was very hostile to accepting children with locks in the classroom. Several years later he would provide youths at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic with letters from the Mount Carmel mansion in defense of their right to carry dreadlocks.

Of real significance in terms of his advocacy mission was his involvement, firstly in the formation of the Eastern Caribbean Rastafari Working Committee in 1998 that became the Eastern Caribbean Rastafari Organisation and which further evolved to become the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation (CRO). Ras Iral was recognized in the Caribbean since then as having good leadership and organizational skills. Secondly, was his creation of and leadership of the Ichirouganaim Council for the Advancement of Rastafari (ICAR), Barbados that was registered as a Charity here in Barbados in the year 2000. Ichirouganaim is the name that the first people of the island called the landscape and it was decided during a Rastafari meeting held in Dominica that same year that indigenous island names would be used to name the Rastafari organisations of the islands that dealt with civil matters i.e. non-religious matters. So ICAR Barbados started then and has made significant contributions nationally and globally to Rastafari culture and Pan-African affairs. In 2001 Ras Iral attended the UN World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and Religious Intolerance in Durban, South Africa where he presented an ICAR paper on religious intolerance. From then till at present ICAR has contributed through the hosting of workshops, summer camps, written documents and lectures, towards educating the general public, youth and children, as well as Governments on equitable rights and justice as it relates to uplifting Rastafari cultures. Ras Iral always played a major role in these events. He did in fact provide lecturing services on Rastafari matters for a period of 10 years at the UWI, Cave Hill campus. One of his most importance contributions was made in the document called the Position Paper of the Barbados Rastafari community towards reparatory Justice. This document was presented to the CARICOM Reparations Commission in 2014 and helped to create CARICOM's 10-point plan on reparations.

Ras Iral travelled extensively. He visited South America, many Caribbean islands, and the African continent to do largely with the work of Rastafari. He also attended an AIDS conference in Uganda. People who knew him well would say that he loved to share knowledge with others especially to young people. He was a renown historian with a very Africentric narrative on events and /or places of significance in Barbados. His home was a place for recreation, uplifting conversation, refreshments, and all positive vibes. He certainly loved to cook, drink coffee, and entertain. He loved to play the drums. He was a quiet warrior, a man who spoke clearly even if his voice was not the loudest in the assembly. He loved to share a laugh and was very kind hearted to almost all that he met.

I knew of Ras Iral Jabari before I met him. He and I had close inter-actions only over the past 8 years. We travelled together to Martinique, St. Lucia, Antigua, Ghana, and Togo. Always had fun sharing stories, praising Jah, medicating, meditating, reasoning on the right, reflecting on life, relationships, doing business, enjoying nature, just living life. He had become a very great friend. He was a giant of a man who I learnt a lot from. I am happy to have spent the latter years of his life with him. Now he must spend some time in the spirit world. He is needed there. He was a reincarnated soul from that time in the past to this time. Soon he will be a reincarnated soul from this time to that time in the future. Rise in Power my friend!

I thank Makonnen Talma, Sista Kuturah Babb, Bongo Wisely, CRO Chairperson, Ras Adonijah, and other spirits for their contributions to this eulogy. I thank you for listening. Selah.