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Jah Dash a Fire pon di Bleacha Dem: Rastafari Affirming the Royal African Presence

Jahlani A. Niaah

Abstract

The Rastafari movement has been described as one of the loudest voices on issues related to African freedom. To this extent Rastafari has emerged in this time as a principal activists and teachers of freedom and empowerment for the oppressed. Through an engagement of the ideas surround the process of 'mental liberation' for the post-colonial African, this paper explores the thinking within Rastafari on the business of the mutilation of the Black self.

Keywords

Rastafari Teacher, mental liberation, skin bleaching, dreadlocks, Royal African

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Jahlani A. Niaah is a Lecturer in the Institute of Caribbean Studies, ICS, at University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus where he also coordinates the Rastafari Studies Unit and Archive. Niaah has published a number of articles and book chapters on Rastafari in scholarly journals and has also visited Europe, Africa and the Americas lecturing and presenting papers on Rastafari. Recently Niaah has turned attention to examining Rastafari in Africa. Niaah is also an active member of the Rastafari community in Jamaica.

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