

# *The Life Of Bob Marley*

Bob Marley was born on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1945, in the hills of Jamaica by the Parish of St. Annes. His mother came from a very respectable black family called the Malcolms. They were farmers and known well to be hardworking and clean people. When she told her father that she was pregnant, he was furious and he felt even worse when she told him that the father of her child was Captain Norval Marley of the English East Indian Regiment. The Marleys were white Jamaicans who were well known to hate blacks, but the worst thing was that she was 18 when he was nearly 50.

Eventually her father's anger subsided and the couple were married in June 1944. Soon after Captain Marley went to Kingston which is the capital of Jamaica to work. He rarely came back and by the time Bob was six, he hardly ever saw his father.

As a small boy, he sometimes read peoples palms to predict their future in order to gain some extra money. He Went to Kingston to live for a while and by the time, he had returned the fortune telling had s topped and Bob had begun singing. He had had heard his mother singing around the house. She was very religious and sang spiritual songs all the time. Bob used to sing with her but eventually learned to accompany himself on an acoustic guitar made by his uncle a carpenter.

When he was 12, he went to live in Kingston. He lived in the slum area of the city, in the poorest houses set up by the government. In these houses, some dangerous diseases spread rather quickly. It was here that Bob learnt his sense of rebellion against injustice. He saw the people around him were poor and kept down by the government who promised to help but never did.

Bob left school at 15 and started to learn welding. He hated it but it was here that he met Desmond Dekker who had ju st released a single called the Israelites. This was the first Jamaican song to ever enter the European charts. Dekker introduced Bob to Jimmy Cliff who helped him get his song recorded to be sold.



# Living As A Rasta

## Music:

Bob and many of his friends played reggae. This was always known as black music it was influenced by gospel and African rhythms. It was very simple to play but the words were quite tough to put in to place. It was music about protest and they had no other way of expressing it freely.

Bob and his friends began a band called the Wailing Wailers. Anybody that cries out to the world for righteousness and justice is a wailer. Bob was being drawn to the teachings of the Rastafari. The rhythm of all reggae is a Rasta rhythm. It was also supposed to be a cry to their god "Jah". The music was intended to give pleasure to everybody.

In 1965, while he was on his way to the recording studio he met a beautiful singer called Rita Anderson. They immediately fell in love and married the next year.

## Non-violence –

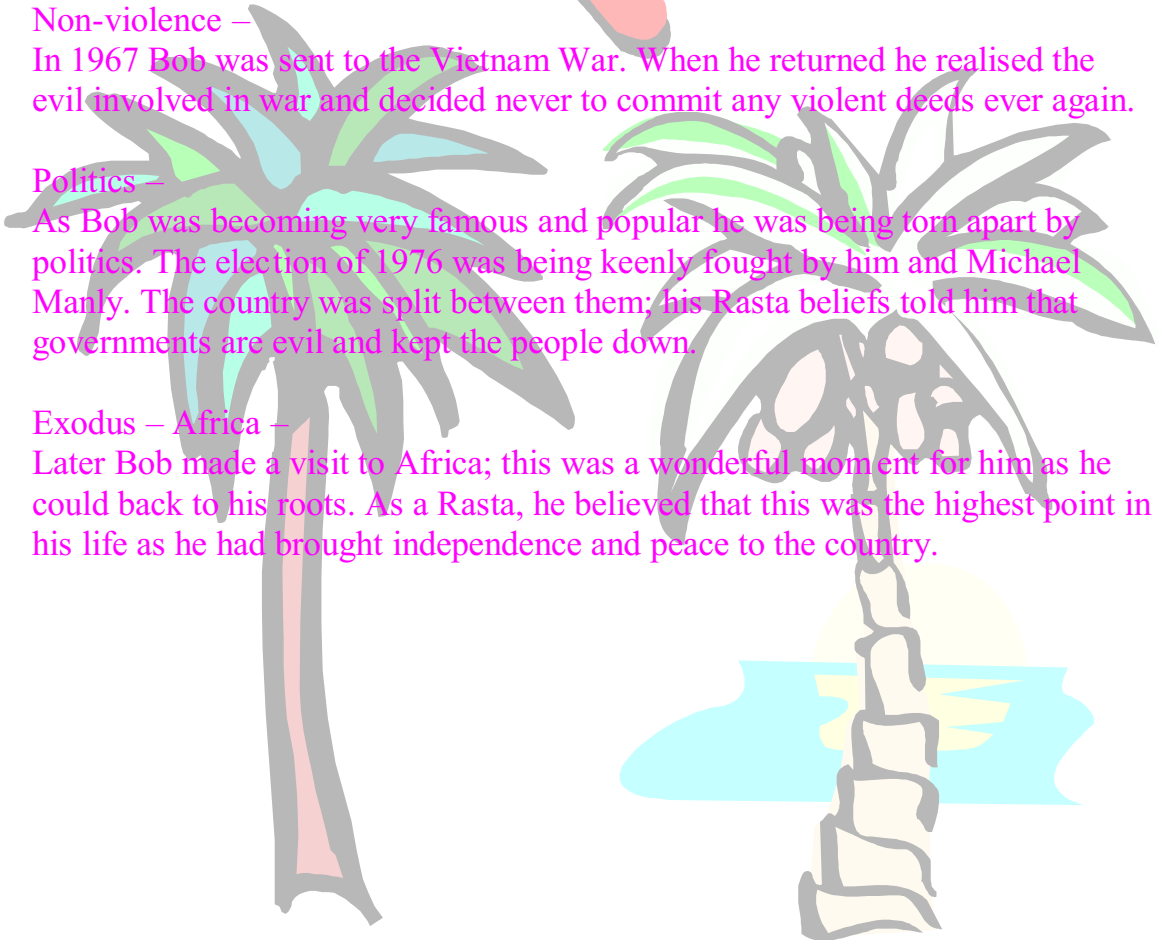
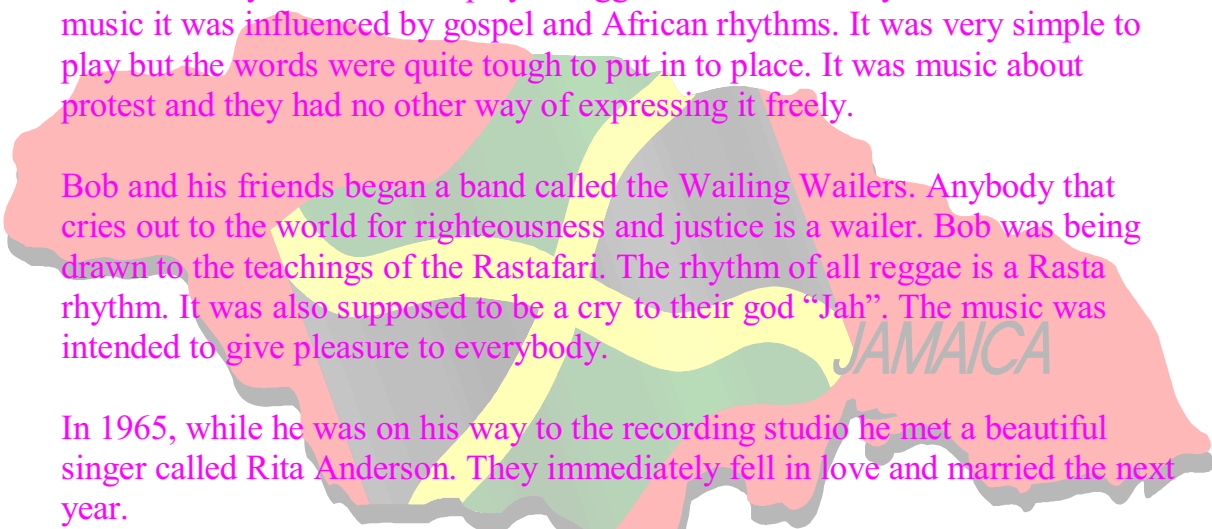
In 1967 Bob was sent to the Vietnam War. When he returned he realised the evil involved in war and decided never to commit any violent deeds ever again.

## Politics –

As Bob was becoming very famous and popular he was being torn apart by politics. The election of 1976 was being keenly fought by him and Michael Manly. The country was split between them; his Rasta beliefs told him that governments are evil and kept the people down.

## Exodus – Africa –

Later Bob made a visit to Africa; this was a wonderful moment for him as he could back to his roots. As a Rasta, he believed that this was the highest point in his life as he had brought independence and peace to the country.



# Other Rasta Beleifs

For Rastas God is Jah. Jah is everything that can possibly be good. Ever ything in the world that is bad is called Babylon.

Ital –

All Rastas follow strict rules:

- ✓ No alcohol
- ✓ No dairy products
- ✓ No Tobacco
- ✓ No Meat
- ✓ No Sugar Based Drinks
- ✓ No Salt

Women –

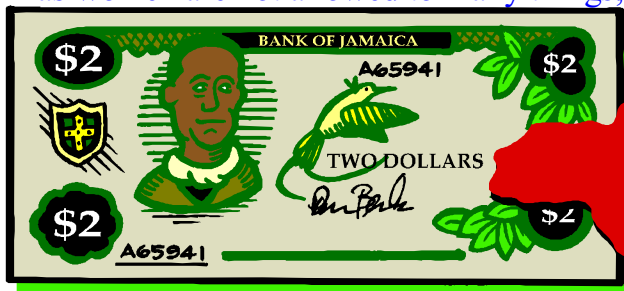
Women cannot wear make-up or perfume and must always dress modestly. Nor can women smoke from the chillum, clay pipe in which Rastas smoke Ganja, which is light cannabis.

Herb –

Smoking herb is a very important part of Rasta life. They believe it helps them think well as it comes from the Earth so it must be good.

Conclusion –

Rasta is quite a different to other religions. This religion has not been very well thought out though. Their excuse to smoke Ganja or drugs was because it comes from the Earth so it must be good, so why are they not allowed to smoke tobacco as tobacco also comes from the Earth. This is also a very sexist religion as women are not allowed to many things, but men are.



By **Amandeep Saggu 101:RG**