

The Influence of the Bobo Shanti Mansion of Rastafari on Reggae Artistes

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Caribbean Quarterly, July 2019, Taylor & Francis

DOI: 10.1080/00086495.2019.1640944

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What is it about?

This paper discusses the influence and transformation of the Bobo Shanti Rasta Mansion in Jamaican popular music. While affiliates of the strict denomination of the Rastafarian faith got labeled as militant radicals by more moderate Rasta branches and mainstream artists alike in the 1990s, a new generation of artistes has carefully deconstructed the Bobo identity, using portions to underline cultural authenticity. The transformative nature of this process is demonstrated in the form of a descriptive historical discussion and representative samples of lyrical content.

Why is it important?

In accordance with Bobo Shanti High Priest and influential Reggae artiste Sizzla Kalonji being honoured by a National Award at the 2019 Grand Gala, the article underlines the significant influence of the Bobo Shanti Rasta Mansion on the cultural and religious interpretation of Rastafari in the new millenium.

Perspectives



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Martin Gansinger

After working on the subject matter for more than ten years and having the chance to do fieldwork in the Bobo Shanti community I am delighted to be able to add a small contribution to the growing recognition that the Order deserves among Rasta circles and beyond - for their spiritual integrity and dedication as well as their continuous efforts towards repatriation and reparation that turned them into cultural icons for Reggae artistes from various ideological and philosophical backgrounds.

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