

Tek it tu dem wi a guh tek it tu dem

Affection

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The concept of 'non' violence is not sustainable. What is 'non' anything? What we need to focus on is the principle which opposes violence. That principle is **affection**. Let's talk a little about affection:-

I've recently been privileged to observe the intimate interactions of two separate pairs of leaders of very opposite faith traditions. On the one hand there was a dinner conversation between my friend, outgoing Arch Bishop Emeritus Lawrence Burke and the newly appointed Roman Catholic Arch Bishop of Kingston, Arch Bishop Donald Reece.

On the other hand, two giants of the Nyabingi order, my friend Ras Iration I, the coordinator of the upcoming, historic Global Nyah Binghi Consultation -to be held at Scotts Pass in Clarendon this July; and Binghi Haiasi, responsible for creating the office for the Nyahbinghi house in NY. The latter could be characterized a traditionalist while the former is definitely a reformer.

Now all of Jamaica has been shell shocked this week. The murders which have come to characterize our daily existence, escalated both in number and in senselessness. The airwaves have been filled with expressions of grief, helplessness, outrage, shock, disbelief and incredulousness.

I have been on the road with the Chocolate Allen team, visiting schools in every parish with Chocolate's message of 'non-violence' that she initiated during her public fast several months ago. One of my favorite persons in the team is Jennifer Brown from the Ministry of Education. Every morning Jennifer comes in with her radiant smile and cheerful disposition.

She reminds me of a teacher I employed at Dominion Purpose. She works in the inner city communities around the Waltham area. She showed up at Jose Marti High with her usual smile and calm, but I asked her how she was doing anyway. She surprised me by saying "not good".

I had told her before she was the sunshine. By showing up, she dispelled any darkness in anyone's aura. So I was shocked. I asked what was wrong.

They had murdered two of her girls the previous day.

I spent as much time as I could listening to her talk about the girls whose lives were snuffed out because they were suspected to have witnessed another murder; how the father watched the murderers exit the property and had himself to run for his life to escape death; and how she had been recently observing one of the girls in particular receive a breakthrough in character development...only to have her life prematurely ended.

Jenny is the "mother" to all of those children in Waltham . That began a deep soul searching meditation about our state of affairs. It will take several articles to share with you the substance of that meditation but I will take the time because I sense that these vibes are exactly what we are all seeking for on a deep level.

The questions keep on getting asked and Jenny was just another echo. "How did we get here?" and "What are we to do?"

I hold a belief, and the more I listen and read, the more convinced I am that many other persons and persuasions subscribe to the same axioms. Experience, expression and expectation are linked. And this link, if we understand it, is the key that allows us to choose our experiences.

This ability to choose experiences is the very essence of the creativity of man or represents that part of ourselves we associate with the Creator. This power however is only focused and harnessed in self aware consciousness. This is the whole aim of religion...(including science) - To make man aware of causality...or other words to make man responsible. To empower man. Put it any which way. The focus is on man becoming God-like.

Why then do we instinctively ask these questions - How did we come here? What should we be doing here? Where are we going from here? If we don't innately understand the law of responsibility....the law of causality. There are links between our experiences and our inner being. We have the potential to create. We have the choice of taking responsibility....for who we are, for what we do, even for what we experience.

When did we create this violent culture? What choices did we make that led to us experiencing having the reputation of being one of the most violent cultures on planet earth today?

And since there is a link between out there (the world I experience) and in here (the world of my aggregate expectations...i.e. my mind), how do I identify what areas of my soul (mind) need changing in order to create the necessary domino effect (from expectation to expression to experience) to change the world of my experience?

How do we answer Michael Jackson's call to answer to the "Man in the Mirror?" How do we like the Creator God, fashion a world after our own likeness and image? How do we birth into the world of our experience the patterns of the imaginations of our mind? How do we engage our deepest creativity and take responsibility for the shape that our world is in?

Those have been the questions I have been searching for deep in my soul in a private and personal way, but feel that i should share these thoughts since we are also all sharing collectively this experience.

I have become equally convinced that somewhere along the line, we have convinced ourselves that we are not required to **like** each other, just **love** (whatever that means to each) each other. That's why I have deliberately chosen the word **affection** to get at the fruit of my observations.

I believe that at the heart of our problems in Jamaica is the cold fact that we do not really **like** each other.

We never really chose violence as such. We have just lost affection. Watching the conversations of these two sets of religious leaders and the lessons and anti lessons those contexts provided convinced me that indeed it is the leaders among us of thought and sensibility that **must pattern and demonstrate a renewed order where affection becomes a central disposition in all our relationships**...this is a necessary prerequisite for the change we all are seeking in our society.

So much to share. I may end up writing a book. But for now, let me say what i am convinced of :-

There are only two archetypes in our society. Human affection is on the one hand and human violence is on the other.

We who claim to represent the side of Love, must now delve deeper in our self awareness...and in our awareness of the God and Father of our religious conceptions to more accurately demonstrate the affection that redeems our world from the clutches of alienation which breeds the destruction we all observe at present.

I will expound on these thoughts in future articles.

Either wi tek it tu dem (affection) or dem a gu tek it to wi (violence). The lines have been drawn and there is no escaping this conversation. We will answer with our lives.

Beloved, let us love one another.

Romans 12:10

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Higher Man vibration yea-ah positive

Live if yu wanna live

June 2008

Spouses who do not like each other. Parents who are not liked by their children and vice versa. Neighbors who cant stand each others guts. Members of the church who don't like their pastor. Pastors who cant stand and constantly complain about their flock.

Familiar situations? One need not mention church members who sit in the pew across the aisle from each other.

Now if you start to talk about members of different churches in the same demonination (o you think its a slip? break up the syllables) that's when the suss begins. and Pastors, priests and politicians of both similiar and differing persuasions - that's another story etc.

Teachers and professionals who must work every day with sworn enemies. Shall we now include politics or have I made my point that we do not like each other in this country. Listen to our speech. Listen to talk radio, to the news. Listen to language from the boardroom to the bedroom. We do not like each other.

We have become accustomed to a culture of complaint and contradiction. The airways are poisoned. The heart vibes are congested. We have lived in a most negative space from which we constantly find some occasion to rise and gasp for air....like Bolt's performance.

Interestingly, it is performance that attracts positive attention but all the negativity debilitates rather than encourages excellence in performance. Only the strong survive....and some would say, no, its the lucky or privileged that make it here. The chances of living a near decent life are the chances of winning the Lotto.

How do we like the objectionable? The obnoxious? The incompetent? The pigheaded? How could Jamaicans ever begin to like Jamaicans? Here's a recipe I sent off to a friend in response to a similar question:-

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How to like the obnoxious

1. Recognize that the reason this person is in your life is because your own spirit (mind) has attracted them. 🤔

2. Recognize that this person is not your enemy. They are your trial. (They are playing the role of adversary in order to help you reach your unknown strength.) 🤔

3. Look for something in the person that reminds you of yourself. (If you must, begin with OK two eyes..... check; two earscheck; blood running thru veins.....check etc.) 😄

4. Be gracious. Recognize the person's good qualities. Identify them. Think about them. Speak about them. Often. To yourself. To other people behind the person's back. If there is space....to the person. 😊

5. Each time you notice that person's faults and witness their antagonistic behavior....refuse to pay any attention....on the level of thought, speech or action. Do not react nor express anything that will indicate to the person that you know he exists. Be stoic. Act as if the person was behaving oppositely. e.g. If the person curses you....imagine they have just blessed you and act accordingly....like smile and say good morning. 😊

6. As soon as you can, think, speak and respond to his/her good qualities. 😊

7. Watch what happens to yourself when you do this and to the other person. (You will die, 😊 and so will the person 😊)

This is really the affection of which I speak. You are affected as much as the other person....because in truth....you are one. A mirror image of each other.

What will live both in you and in the other person is a Higher person that you have given birth to (created)....by your expressions.... which represents the Truer more noble Being that you both reflect. You will also begin to experience your Kingship, your crown and your God-likeness or ability to create the circumstances of your choosing.

YeKengalé