An Interview with Grammy-Award Winner, Ziggy Marley

We were very privileged several months ago to be joined on 21st Century Radio by Ziggy Marley, a creative and award-winning musician whose music we play often on our programs. We invited Ziggy back on 21st Century Radio mainly because Dr. Bob had just successfully completed a renovation of his favorite mural, painted at the Community Mediation Center in Baltimore and featuring a portrait of Bob Marley, the prophet and reggae superstar directly in the center.

Both the Home and Garden Network (HGTV) and the Discovery Channel have recently filmed this mural and will be showing it to the planet during fall 2008 and winter 2009 in two different television specials. We were greatly honored to have Ziggy Marley and his band meet us at the site of the new mural where they also admired Bob’s new Artcar running on Biodiesel fuel. Ziggy was in Baltimore at the end of July for the Bob Marley Roots Rock Reggae Festival (www.Rootsrockreggae.com).

The eldest son of Bob Marley is not one to let any moss grow under his feet. In 2006 he released Love is My Religion on the Tuff Gong World Wide label, garnering him a Grammy award for best reggae album of the year. This makes a total of four Grammys for Ziggy as an artist.

Although the musical center of this album is clearly reggae, it is also peppered with African percussion and other flavors, as well as with Ziggy’s independent creative streak. Please note that in the following dialogue, we have transcribed his Jamaican patois as closely as possible, correcting to more standard grammatical uses only when necessary for clarity.

Witnesses to the high strangeness of the UFO phenomenon will find much of what Ziggy Marley says in these excerpts from his 2008 interview resonating with their concept of nonphysical reality. In fact, during an earlier interview with Ziggy in 1996, Dr. Bob asked him directly about his under-
standing of UFOs and if he had ever seen one. (No, but he wishes he would!)

He said that with the immense hugeness of the universe and the vast number of planets in it, it would be “naïve or boastful” to think “we are the only creatures that God’s create, in this one planet. I don’t think that Jah created just earth with just man, you know? I mean there’s other life out there. So we should be humble,” he continued, adding with a laugh, “I know the pause I’ve got is very big.”

**Ziggy Marley:** Love, brother.

**Bob Hieronimus:** Good to hear your voice again, Ziggy. Tell us about *Love Is My Religion*. What is religion to you?

**Ziggy Marley:** Well, religion to me now, this is why me come and say love now, because religion becomes the wrong mix of spirituality and politics. So it gets corrupted. The concept of this creative force we call God gets corrupted by man; we call it religion.

So the only reason why I even use the word *religion* is so that people can relate with the idea of love as being the way to this knowledge, the way to what you’re looking for. It is through love. It is through knowing love, through doing love, and experiencing love that we can know this higher concept that we are seeking and looking for.

Love is the only religion; it has to be love because love is the only thing that includes everyone and don’t exclude no one. This is how we see it today, and it is the message that we have been given to give to the world, from the source of knowledge, from the source of truth, you know.

**Bob Hieronimus:** As they say in many of the ancient wisdom teachings, love is the cohesive force of the universe.

**Ziggy Marley:** It’s true; it’s true. This is something that I have come to realize. It’s not something that I was acknowledging from ever since. I was always on my way to this position, but I only got there in this time. It’s not a matter of anything special about me or notin’ like that.

It’s just that when you have an open mind and you’re willing to grow, then you are supporting the changes in yourself that are positive and that will make you be aware of certain things. But if you close your mind and are not willing to change and evolve as human beings, what I say is that the human consciousness needs an evolution. Just as we have evolved technically, you know, financially, all of this evolv-
ing that we have done throughout the years from the history of man.

Our consciousness has not kept pace with the other advances that we have made. And so that is the next step for the human species to advance and evolve with them consciousness ... this is where we are today.

We’re still backwards in our consciousness and how we think about each other, and you know this is the reason why we still fight and kill each other, because we are backward in our evolution or mind and our consciousness. So this is what makes evolution ever take place.

We cannot forget everything else, technology—we make computers, we go to space, you know; they make bigger bombs, and they make different medicines and robot arms to fix people, and the internet—if the human consciousness does not evolve also, then we will always be fighting wars and killing each other. What is the use of all the other advancements if we cannot love each other and live together? They’re going to use it to destroy.

**Bob Hieronimus:** I read that your song “Keep on Dreaming” is about reconnecting with your father through dreams. What would you like to share with us about that experience?

**Ziggy Marley:** Well, it’s not something that I even talk about too much. I don’t even want to talk about too much, because I don’t know if I can explain it properly. You know, I’m going to try, but reality is not just physical.

Reality is not just on this plain of existence that we live in or we know of. Reality entails much more than the physical side of life, and that is what I realize. I know that from long time, and I keep having experiences that reiterate that knowledge.

I will never forget that because I keep having experiences that show me the truth. And again, people have been fooled to not accept this reality. Children are more open to this reality than adults because adults grew up where the mind will come too closed to even experience it or to even accept it as a reality, these type of things.

The mind will come to a close and too skeptical of the natural mystics that are of this earth that we should be open to and be happy to express and share with others. You come like, “What are you talking about? That can’t be real, that’s not real!” No, it is real, it is real.

It does exist. Accept it, and you will learn more. But if you ridicule it and shut it down, shut down your own mind, then you will never learn no more. You’ll never get past the physical state of existence and the physical state of realization.

The most recent experience I have with these type of things was the passing of my grandmother on April 8, 2008. Now, night before my grandmother passed away I saw her in my vision, yeah? And she was in full white and looking very nice, and she was telling me, “You know, it’s time to go, let’s get up. Why you still sittin’ there, let’s go.”

The next morning, I call my grandmother and I said, “Grandma – what’s up? Is everything all right?” She said, “Yeah, everything is all right.” Then you know I tell her, “Well I’m coming to see you because I’m supposed to see you.” She said, yeah, she’d been waiting to see me.

And that night she passed away. She understood the message in the dream, and I did, too, I understood what that means. We all know what that means. She knew, I knew. I couldn’t tell you the exact time, but the spirit was speaking. So we accept these things as a part of our reality and a part of the way we exist within the universe. We can communicate beyond physical communication, and that is what we do.

**Bob Hieronimus:** Indeed, as you said, the physical world is so limiting in the sense that it may be less than one percent of what really exists. And so to disregard the nonphysical realities is to dismiss ninety-nine percent of life that goes on and on and on. The Australian Bushmen talk about dreamland and say their dreams are real; these are places we go to. But other people say, well come on, these guys aren’t scientists. What do they know?

**Ziggy Marley:** Yeah, scientists can’t explain these things, Bob; it’s beyond them. All of these things is beyond them because they always looking for some physical proof. And everything is not physical.

**Bob Hieronimus:** And everything can’t be proved.

**Ziggy Marley:** Right. Experience, you know; we experience it. That’s how we prove it.

**Bob Hieronimus:** I notice on your website you recommend a book about the scientific and spiritual effects that music has on the human brain and body and spirit. I wonder if you could talk about that just for a few minutes.

**Ziggy Marley:** Yeah, well I’ve always been interested in the effects of music, what tones, what notes, what effects have on us, on the human physiological makeup, psychological makeup, on spiritual—everything. Because I know
music is a powerful thing. When I say music, let's put it in terms of vibrations.

I know that vibrations are very powerful things. And if something resonates at a certain frequency, it does something. It has an effect on us. So I was always interested in finding out what frequency does what to the human being. You know what resonance, how does it sound, what does it do, because it's vibration, you know.

I'm thinking how do I implement these things in the music in terms of what effect I want from the music itself. Let's separate the words for a second. If I was to do an instrumental piece of music, it is supposed to have some effect on people even if there are no words. The music speaks in its own language to the human form. So I'm trying to find out more about it.

Bob Hieronimus: When art and science come together through music, you've got something really powerful.

Ziggy Marley: This is true and I mean, my life has been guided. As you say, what you sow is what you reap. You're seeing what you should be doing, and it come to you. Your spirit is guiding what we're doing here. I believe this because things just coming up as sure of what I should be doing.

I know when my heart speaks to me, it cannot lie. There is something that don't lie to me, that speaks to me. I know this. I might want to do something else, but the force is driving me to do this, and that is what I do. Everything fall into place for a reason and a purpose. Everything is happening for a reason in my life. That's how I see it.

Bob Hieronimus: And I think that's the way it is in everyone's life except that you've been able to find your purpose and reason through meditation, probably. And there are so many ways to meditate and listen to the spirit. There are so many ways of praying—not for yourself, but for the planet.

Ziggy Marley: But listen to me, Bob. When I pray, I never ask the Almighty for anything. I only thank Him. And when I pray, I never say God or whatever forces, give me X, give me Y. I don't want to ask because it's coming to me anyway. All I have to do is give thanks for everything. This is the way I live my life. I just give thanks because I am receiving what I should be receiving anyway without even saying, “Give it to me.”

Ziggy closed with some words about preparing for the future. “We can't wait,” he said. “Prepare our children, you know; prepare in their minds that they can create a better society than what exists today.”


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On pages 36 and 37, Ziggy Marley reads from Zohara Hieronimus's new book Kabbalistic Teachings of the Female Prophets (www.SevenHolyWomen.com).


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