

IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA

A PHOTOALBUM BY FLORENTIN SMARANDACHE





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2009/2010 - photographs and text by Florentin Smarandache



This is an album of photographs taken in Jamaica in various places like Montego Bay, Dunn's River Falls, Green Grotto Caves, Nine Mile, Spanish City, Kingston, Negril, Green Island, Discovery Bay, and others, by Prof. Florentin Smarandache, during a visit he made there in December 2009 - January 2010.

The photographs are accompanied by explanatory texts - fugitive notations of the author.





MONTEGO BAY



DUNN'S RIVER FALLS



GREEN GROTTTO
CAVES



NINE MILE



KINGSTON



SPANISH CITY



NEGRIL



GREEN ISLAND



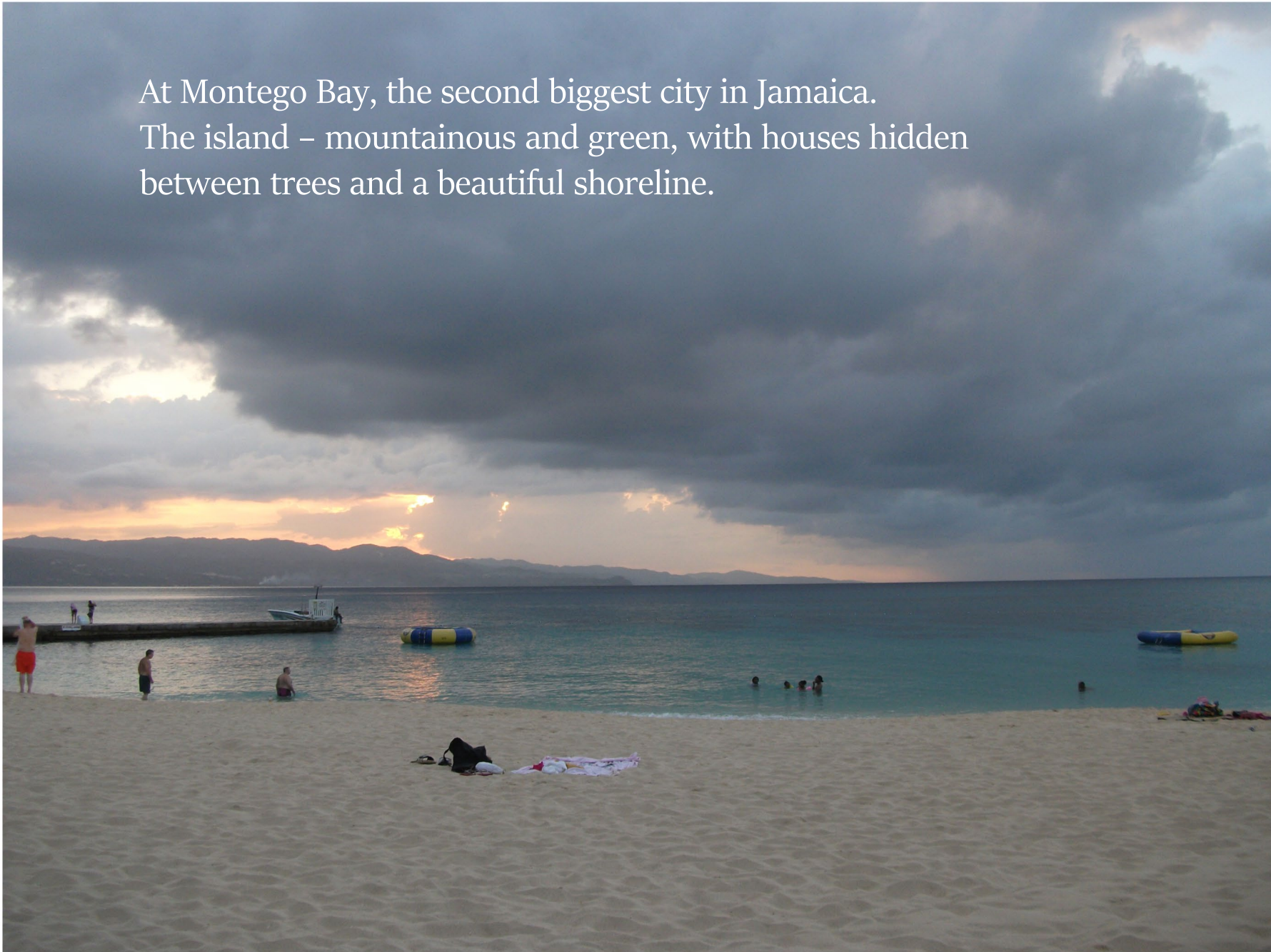
DISCOVERY BAY



IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA

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At Montego Bay, the second biggest city in Jamaica.
The island – mountainous and green, with houses hidden
between trees and a beautiful shoreline.





Plenty of flowers in this hot, tropical country.

Prices even higher than in America! Ex-British colonies are very expensive.



On the Groovy Beach in Montego Bay.

I've been on lots of beaches, on 3-4 continents, but I enjoyed the Black Sea most (and not because of patriotism); Eforie Nord was my favorite beach. It seemed more alive and cleaner than all.



Bob Marley's music is everywhere. His brand is on t-shirts and art.

Bob Marley has become a legend.

He symbolizes this island.



The tropics are like paradise: exotic plants, lots of flowers. Heat to the point of being unable to do anything. A majestic bird chirped all night.



Their creole accent is hard to understand: *patwa* in English, *patois* in French.

– *We' y ago?* (pronounced *u ia gau*). In proper English, we'd say: Where are you going?

Banana, sugarcane, papaya, coconut, bamboo plantations.

Jamaica exports sugar, coffee, bamboo, papaya, coconuts, sweet potatoes.

I'm visiting a banana plantation. Tourism brings high earnings, but in the off-season, when it rains a lot (April-November), they're much lower.

To produce as many bananas as possible, a plantation needs nine months (as much as a woman needs to give birth!).



When I first saw a palm tree (in Morocco, around 1982, when I left to teach mathematics in French), I left like hugging it!

Clean. Green.
Palm trees everywhere.

The Columbus Park, on the shore, near the Discovery Bay (where Columbus landed when he discovered the Americas, but he called it Dry Harbor).





Objects from the time of the Spanish colonization (from five centuries ago). A canoe, a scathing. Lawn mower for cows. A water mill. A pulley from the sixteenth century. An anchor. A bell.



Dunn's River Falls is near the city of Ocho Rios, in Saint Ann Parish.

The city and the waterfall are popular tourist attractions.



The waterfall is almost 200 ft tall and 600 ft long, on natural terraces.



I climbed through the river, on rocks, towards the springs.

Wet as a dog, I only protected my camera.



Dunn's River flow in the Caribbean Sea.



At the Green Grotto Caves, a 45-minute-long tour. We're entering with miner helmets on our heads. Plenty of bats found their refuge here; they're flying around and above our heads.

In 1655, when the English invaded Spanish Jamaica, the Spanish governor, Don Cristobal, hid here.

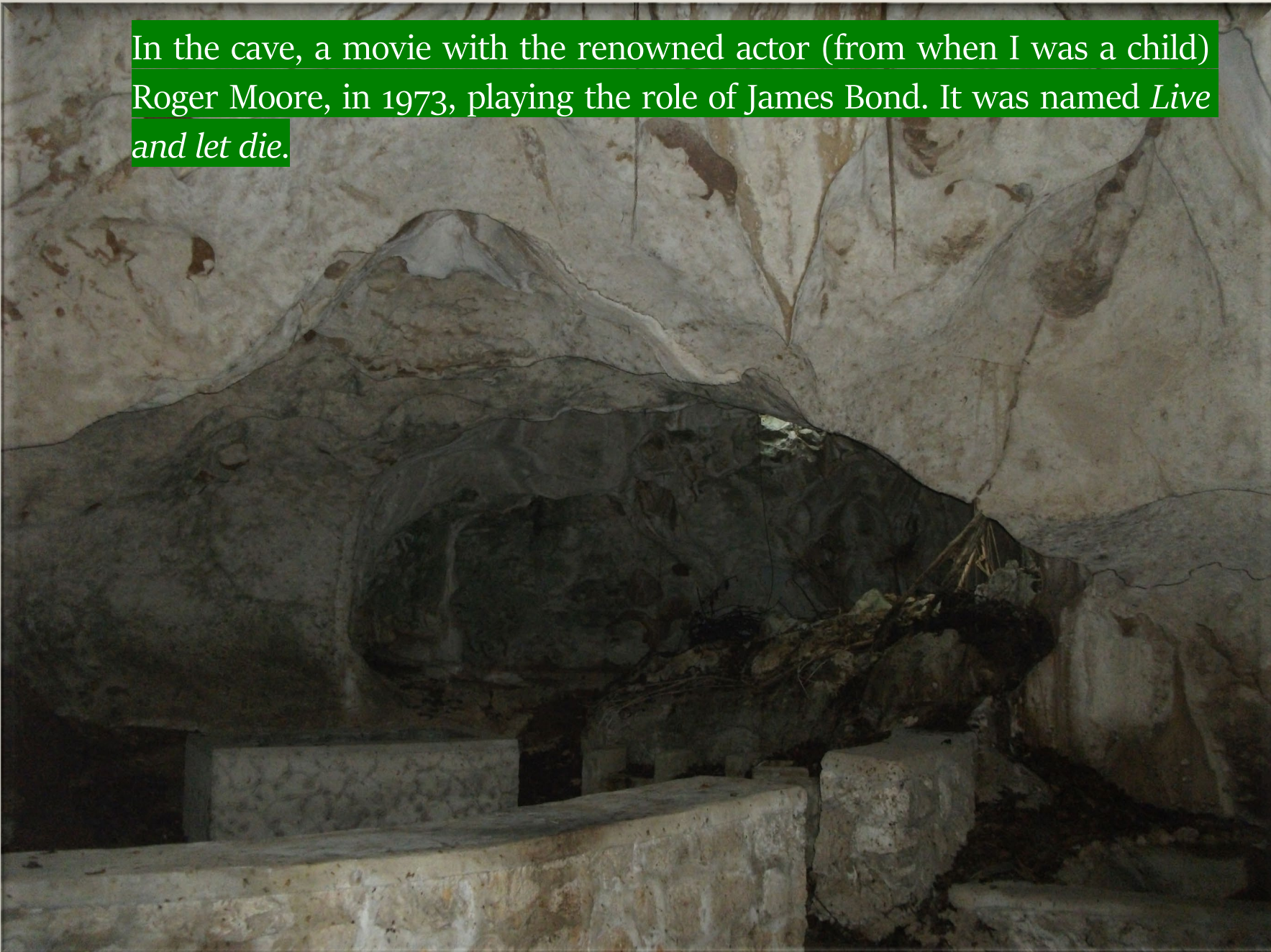
A big part of the black population also hid in this cave, formed by water, which has a length of 10 miles and a surface of 28 square miles, while the depth is 13 meters.





During WW1, rum was hidden here. It was made from sugar cane. Not long before that, the cave had been transformed into a nightclub. The government, however, forbid it, because the walls were decaying.

In the cave, a movie with the renowned actor (from when I was a child) Roger Moore, in 1973, playing the role of James Bond. It was named *Live and let die*.





The cave is made out of calcar and has multiple exits.

It also goes underwater, where there are lots of fishes, and is connected to the lake.

A million bats live here. They venture up to 7 miles out, looking for fruits.

A bat eats a thousand insects per night. Algae, snakes, lizards.



As guano (bat defecation) contains phosphorus, azote and sulphate, it was used for cannon explosives by pirates.

It's also used in medicine, and bat saliva is used as a cure to some illnesses.



Wide trees with many branches (Banyan).



A big and old tree, as is told in tales.



In the town of Ocho Rios, there's a panoramic view towards the garden of the Thaw Park.



When I saw movies set in the jungle, with tropical plants and animals, I adored them! It's so wonderful to retire in this type of warm regions of the world... But also, so extremely expensive. Only flowers, flowers... Yellow, red, purple, pink... Like in Heaven.

A friend from the Caribbean.



In the village of Bob Marley.

Bob had 11 children with 7 different women.

Stil, his well-known song says:
One love, one heart...



Bob Marley's and his band's, *The Wailers*, songs are beautiful, but after you listen to them a few times, you might get bored (as you do with any repeated music or movie).





Photos, videos about the great singer (who imposed a style for black music) – launched by the British in the entire world.

Old newspaper exposition.

Graves of his family members: his mother, Wolete Maskel (1926-2008) died in Miami; a brother of his, Antonio.

His mother's maiden name, Jamaican of African origins, was Cedella Malcolm.



After her marriage with Norval Sinclair Marley, she took the name of her husband, and after her second marriage, she was named Cedella Booker. On her grave is written her religious name, which translates to: *The Daughter of the Holy Cross*.





In the parental home of Bob Marley (born on the 6th of february 1945), a cousin of his is now guide.



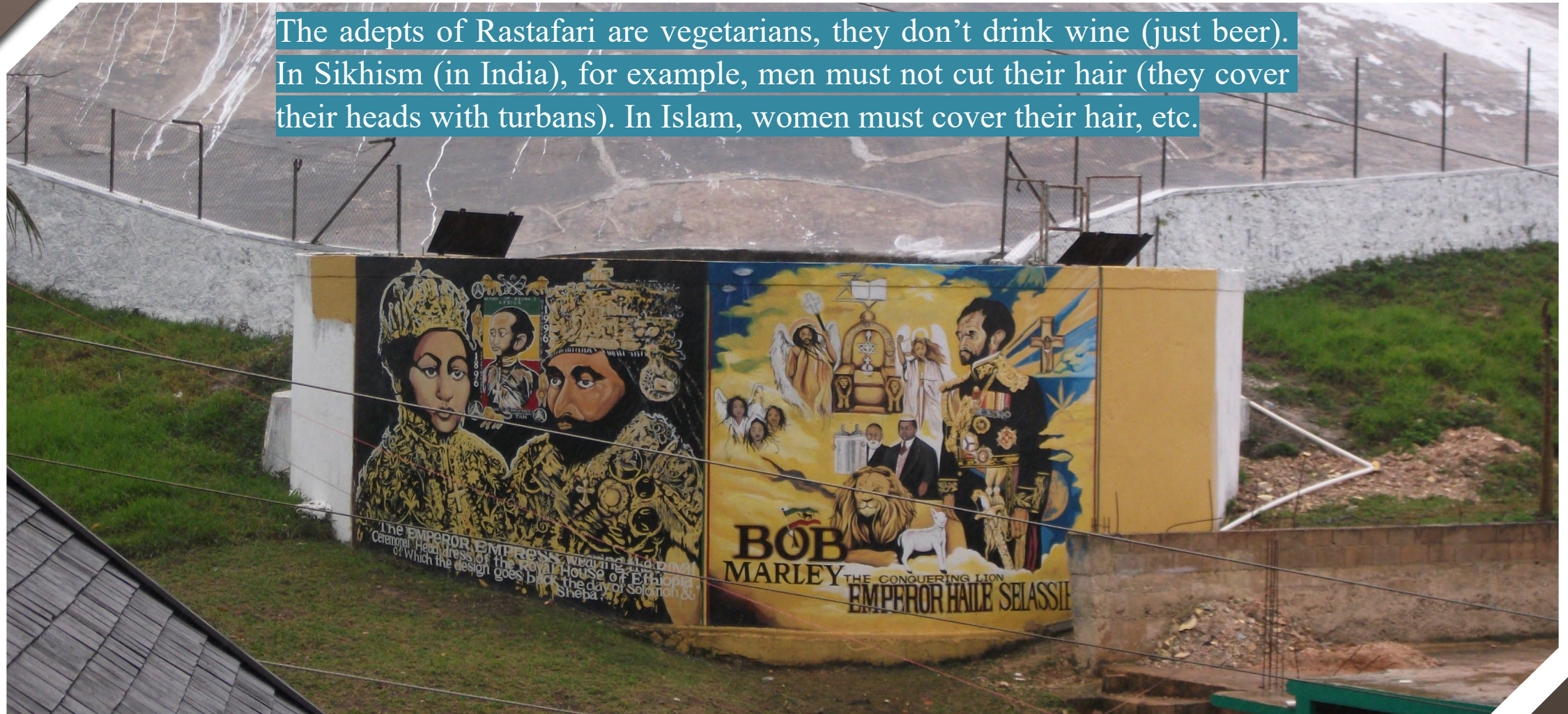
Bob Marley was religious. His way of life is called RASTA, or RASTAFARI, to which he converted together with his band in 1966, when the Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, visited Jamaica.

Over 100,000 believers were present at the Kingston airport, the capital of the island, and the day of the visit, the 21st of April, was proclaimed a holiday, named *Grounation Day*.



Ras was the noble title equivalent to *Prince*, used by until coronation by the Emperor of Ethiopia. He was named Tafari Makonnen. Thus, the name of the religious movement means *Prince Tafari*, in the Amharic language (of semitic origins, the state language of Ethiopia).

The adepts of Rastafari are vegetarians, they don't drink wine (just beer). In Sikhism (in India), for example, men must not cut their hair (they cover their heads with turbans). In Islam, women must cover their hair, etc.





On November 4th, 1980, Robert Nasta Marley, who, since childhood, chose Bob as his nickname (nickname coming from Robert), with final stage cancer, got baptized in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Kingston, with the name Berhane Selassie (*The Light of the Holy Trinity*).

It's high season... and in Jamaica they don't have tourists.
Because of the crisis, the driver complains.

It has been raining and raining for two days straight.

It's pouring rain!

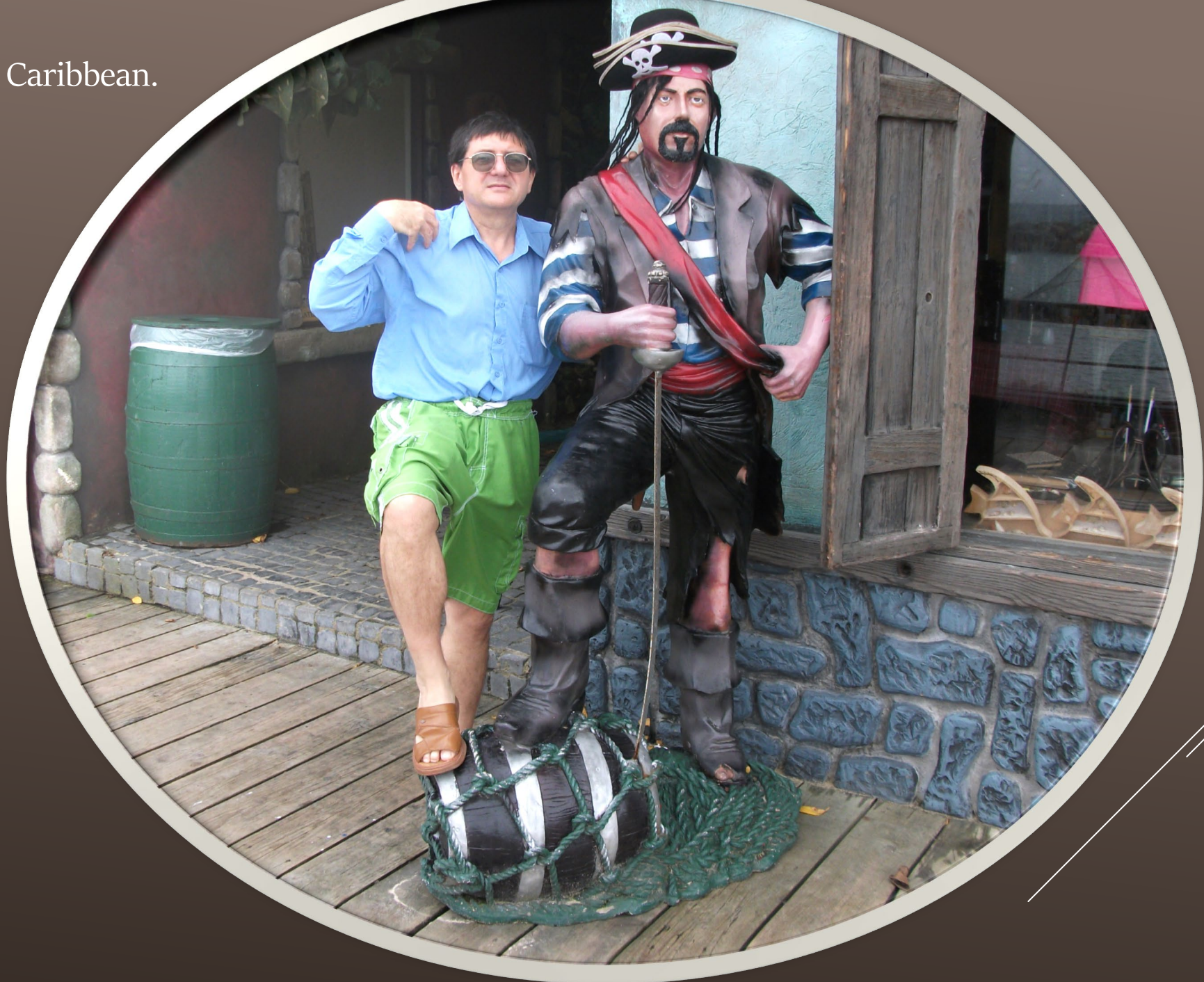


On the way to Kingston (which is a contraction of the expression “King’s Town”).

The mountainous roads are difficult, narrow.

I’m changing my plans depending on what’s going on around me.

With a pirate of the Caribbean.





Caressing an iguana.

I'm going through Spanish City.

I am tasting exotic fruits: jackfruit (yellow, sweet); Jamaican apple – red, sour (with a big, brown and hairy seed inside).





I'm trying out many tropical fruits: - *sour sop* = big, green fruit, with a white inside.; - *june plume* = it peeled off, then I ate the pulp – kind of sour; and exotic cakes: - *bammy* = made from cassava flour (yuca or manioc); - *girrada* = made from coconut flour; - *shamy* = sweet, black, made from coconut.



In Kingston, I slept at a hotel, Indies; \$75 a room. In the evening, I watched a Bruce Lee movie on the television, and I walked to the John R. Wong Supermarket. A very loud, fast kind of music wakes me up from my sleepiness.



At the *Bob Marley Museum* in Kingston, the legend and the symbol of Jamaica.
His favorite colors: - green, for plantations; - yellow, for the sun; - red, for blood.



Bob Marley's 1976 truck is exposed in the yard.



His most sold album, *The Legend*: 1.200.000 copies.

In total, he released fourteen albums.

He imposed a *black style* in music, loved in the entire world.

Exodus was named *The Album of the century*.



I visited his bedroom, his kitchen (he had a gas stove and a special cook – Bob was vegetarian), a small store (that he owned) with colored glass windows and his bicycle inside. He smoked weed and meditated.



Research session.



Taming the elephant.

In Negril, another island town.





Colonial architectural style.



Urban Jamaican frame picture.



The lights' feast.

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