Haile Selassie was born Tafari Makonnen on July 23, 1892, in the Ethiopian city of Ejersa Goro. He was the son of Ras Makonnen, a chief adviser to Emperor Menelik II, and his mother was Yeshimebet Ali. His father died when he was only 13, and he was then raised by his uncle, Dejazmach Darge, who was a prominent figure in the Ethiopian court. In 1916, Tafari Makonnen was crowned as a regent for the Empress Zewditu, and he became the de facto ruler of Ethiopia. He implemented a series of modernizing reforms, such as the construction of schools, hospitals, and roads, and he also worked to abolish slavery in Ethiopia. In 1930, Tafari Makonnen was crowned Emperor of Ethiopia, taking the name Haile Selassie, which means 'Might of the Trinity' in Amharic. He was the first Ethiopian monarch to use the title of 'Emperor' as opposed to 'King' or 'Negus'. His coronation was a lavish event attended by dignitaries from around the world. Haile Selassie was a strong advocate for Ethiopia's independence and sovereignty. In 1935, Italy invaded Ethiopia, and Haile Selassie made a famous speech at the League of Nations in which he pleaded for the member states to honor their commitment to collective security and resist the Italian aggression. Despite his efforts, Ethiopia was occupied by Italy for five years. After the liberation of Ethiopia from Italian occupation in 1941, Haile Selassie worked to modernize the country and improve its infrastructure. He introduced a new constitution, established a parliament, and promoted education and healthcare. He also played a key role in the formation of the United Nations. Haile Selassie was a deeply religious man and was seen as a messianic figure by the Rastafari movement, which emerged in Jamaica in the 1930s. Rastafarians believe that Haile Selassie is the incarnation of God and the rightful ruler of Ethiopia. They see Ethiopia as their spiritual homeland and advocate for repatriation to Africa. Despite his efforts to modernize Ethiopia, Haile Selassie's rule was not without controversy. His government was criticized for its authoritarianism and human rights abuses, and there were several attempts to overthrow him. In 1974, he was deposed in a military coup and imprisoned. Haile Selassie died under mysterious circumstances in 1975, and the exact circumstances of his death remain a subject of debate. Some believe that he was murdered, while others argue that he died of natural causes. His body was discovered under a concrete slab on the grounds of the Imperial Palace in Addis Ababa in 2000. Haile Selassie's legacy continues to be a subject of debate and controversy. While he is revered by many as a visionary leader who fought for Ethiopia's independence and modernization, others criticize his authoritarian rule and the human rights abuses committed under his regime. He remains a symbol of Ethiopian nationalism and a figure of interest for historians and scholars. Haile Selassie's influence extended beyond Ethiopia and the Rastafari movement. He was a respected figure on the world stage and was known for his eloquence and statesmanship. His efforts to promote African unity and independence have left a lasting impact on the continent, and his legacy continues to be studied and celebrated by scholars and admirers around the world.