

# Kapo laid to rest

His family cried, as was expected, but tears flowed also from people who only knew his name, who had never heard him preach nor ever seen his work.

When Patriarch Bishop Mallica "Kapo" Reynolds, painter, sculptor and revivalist, was buried yesterday he was mourned by many - members of

the art fraternity and of his church, other revivalists in the country and those, like Olga Ellis, an onlooker, who cried because she had heard of him and seen the pain his death had caused the mourners gathered at the National Heroes' Park.

They did not send Kapo off with tears alone though, there

was singing and rejoicing because, in the words of one of their songs, the grave couldn't hold them back.

Members of revivalist churches came from as far away as Manchester to pay their respects to Kapo, the movement's most famous follower. They joined the hundreds of onlookers who flocked the National Heroes' Circle.

Revivalists used the opportunity of Kapo's funeral to lash out at the country's attitude towards the movement and to preach about love.

The Reverend Allan Jones, of the Church of the Redeemer in New York spoke of the stigma of obeah attached to revivalism. He said the country's educated class treated the church with scorn.

Jones cautioned that people should look beneath the outer trappings to find the heart of the man before judging him. Kapo, Jones said, was a man, who chose to wrap his head, clap his hand and stamp his feet, but above all, he was a man of love. He called for tolerance in religious worship and noted that despite the difference in worship, all prayed to the same God, and therefore all was kin.

Opposition Leader Edward Seaga, who knew the artist and Bishop for 36 years gave the eulogy.

He spoke highly of Kapo's talent and the way in which the revival leader reflected his heritage in the artworks created over the years. The artist had made an outstanding contribution to the development of folk art, he pointed out.

Seaga too spoke of the "stigmatisation of revivalism". Too

often, he said, Jamaicans learnt to appreciate their own culture only when foreigners took note of it and said it was good.

"The self-doubt among Jamaicans whose roots are not planted or no longer linked to our folk society is, in part, a reflection of the desire to deny where we are coming from and, in other part, uncertainty as to where we are going", the former Prime Minister said.

Seaga noted that the self-doubt was gradually being overcome as more of the island's folk heroes gained international recognition.

"But the stigmatisation of revivalism still remains, in the view of many, as an African retention which we can do without". Seaga saw Kapo's funeral as part of the isolation of the religious form.

"Today's service is not a revival function, no sankeys, no choruses, no trumping, no groaning. It is structured and regimented to pay deference, as an official function, to the same bias of which I speak".

But Kapo did have his revival service. Yesterday morning at the St. Michael's Tabernacle, Gandhi Road, members of his church had their usual church service which also served as a farewell to their leader.

The official funeral service, held at the National Arena, saw performances by the Jamaica Folk Singers, the Jamaica Constabulary Force Band and the Jamaica Constabulary Force Buglers.

Kapo died February 24 at the age of 78. He is survived by his third wife Sheila and 12 children.

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Mrs. Sheila Reynolds, wife of internationally known painter, sculptor and revival leader Mallica Reynolds as she viewed for the last time, the body of her husband. -Banks photo