



# MUSINGS ON MADAGASCAR

By Agent Bryanie Diallio

It has come to my attention that many citizens of both the Royal Australian protectorate and the Commonwealth of Britannia do not seem to know of any of the culture and customs of the island of Madagascar.

Being a citizen of Madagascar I feel this is rather shameful so I have compiled a brief history and insight into their culture which is essential for gaining the trust and rapport of the people.

The islands history is rather interesting, though little is known for sure due to inter-tribal politics and most of it being passed down through oral histories.

Madagascar is a collection of hundreds of different tribes. Many of these still survive today though many dynamics and “fadi” have had to change due to the recent occupation.



Fadi are a combination of law, tradition and spiritual 'rules' unique to Madagascan culture. Many tribes have their own Fadi which can range from the types of foods they are able to consume to how many wives a man may take. There is no specific Fadi, and there may be huge discrepancies between tribes. For example; whilst one tribe will have a Fadi against hunting and eating Lemurs, a neighbouring tribe will have Fadi that is permits this hunting where yet another may forbid hunting only during certain periods of the year.

Tribes nearer to one another tend to adopt similar Fadi and for the most part co-exist fairly peacefully. However tribes from further away tend to be less friendly and a regional divide exists. Many tribes from northern regions such as Mahajanga were intolerant of tribes from Southern regions such as Fianarantsoa. (Madagascan names do tend to be rather complex in nature).

So put simply, Madagascar was rather a mess, possibly irrevocably so. This situation existed until 1790 when a tribe from the line Andrianmpandramanentra managed to unite the regions under the rule of Radama I, the first true king of Madagascar.



There was an uneasy co-existence between the tribal territories, which gradually formed the central region connected to all regions and was home to the capital of Madagascar Antananarivo. 'Tana', as it came to be called, was connected to every region. This allowed for Fadi from the other regions to mix and dilute. New fadi were made and some old fadi forgotten with the formation of the central region. As King Radama had the last say in conflicts the country lived relatively at peace.

This was not to last however. Ramada's rule was short but his work and legacy continued. One thing about the Madagascan monarchy that has always been of interest to me is that succession was not dictated by birth. The current monarch would choose his or her successor before there death, which to me at least seems fairly logical. In this case Radama chose his wife Ranavalona I.

So what has become of the royal family now?

To be quite honest, no one really knows for sure, during the second Martian attack, Madagascar was under the rule of queen Ranavalona II. The royal palace in Antananarivo was attacked and destroyed; however, the queen was not in residence at the time though

her exact whereabouts are unknown to this day.

Nowadays, Madagascar has been forced to lose many of the old traditions. Many smaller tribes in the wildlands still continue to live as they have done. But with the split of the central 'Tana' region, the tribal feuds and discrepancies of fadi appear to be resurfacing. Some tribes wish for a Madagascar ruled entirely by the Commonwealth others wish for The Royal Australian protectorate to take over and still others wish for a free and intendant Madagascar.

These differences in ideology have led to several mobs forming within the country. The most dangerous of these is the United Madagascan Front or (UMF). This group of radical political extremists are responsible for many lynchings, bombings and general terror across the country.

Australian Madagascar or (AM) another terrorist group that stand for for a full take over by the Royal Australian Protectorate, use black mail, kidnapping and other forms of terror to attempt to attain their goals.

And finally, the Madagascan People's Commonwealth Alliance or (The M.P.C.A), a



further terror organisation stands for the country of Madagascar to be absorbed wholly into the Commonwealth of Britannia. They are famed for their use of bombing, torture and political stunts of a gruesome nature.

In conclusion Madagascar is a wonderful diverse country currently trying to settle after such huge changes politically and globally. While visiting, it is advised keeping quiet about your political leanings is a wise idea as well as avoiding Martians of course...