



Valerie Wright (a Mother's Message)

Benjamin Funeral 28 December 2023

“Firstly, let me thank you all for coming today to say goodbye to my dear son Benjamin who was a kind and gentle soul.

“Noone can truly understand what I am going through as a mother unless they have experienced it themselves – losing a child is unbearable but I will always love him and remember him in my heart.

“My son was always there for me, and I also lived with him in London for many years during the late 70’s and early 80’s.

“Benjamin was my first-born of five sons and my eldest child, he also has a twin sister, Velda, who is also here today along with his other six siblings, Millicent, Joyce, Tippa, Mark, Paul and David. Even though I can’t be here, some of my grandchildren are here, as well as other relatives.

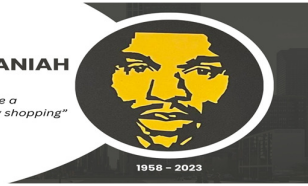
“Please remember also today. While we really thank you all for remembering Benjamin Zephaniah, the artist, writer, poet and human rights activist and more; to us, he was also all these things, but most importantly of all he was simply a son, brother, cousin or uncle and they will miss him deeply.

“I have asked for the following passage of one of my favourite poems from my son to be read;

*I love me mudder and me mudder love me
we come so far from over de sea
we heard dat de streets were paved with gold
sometime it hot sometime it cold,*

WE REMEMBER
BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH
Pioneer and Innovator

*"I'm an anarchist, I'd like to have a
revolution, but everyone is busy shopping"*



*I love me mudder and me mudder love me
we try fe live in harmony
you might know her as Valerie
but to me she is my mummy.*

*I love her and she love me too
and dis is a love I know is true
I'm talkin to you, and you, and you
Me and my mudder, we love you too*

“Another passage that stays in my mind at this difficult time is;

*‘Can a mother’s tender care, cease towards the child she bared,
But I will always remember thee, until we meet on the other side’*

“God bless you my dear son.”

Valerie (to you, Mommy)