

On the Occasion of the Publication of *BAsics*:

A Celebration of Revolution and the Vision of a New World

Monday, April 11, Harlem Stage

BAsics is a book of quotations and short essays from Bob Avakian being released in March 2011. Take a look at the Table of Contents – and think about the great need for this book to get out broadly in society.

Avakian has a unique voice – a rare combination of an unsparing critique of the history and current direction of American society with a sweeping view of world history and the potential for humanity. And Bob Avakian is more than that – he is the leader of a party and a movement aiming to make revolution, actively working today to change the “political terrain,” to prepare the sentiments among millions and to organize the forces that could actually lead a revolution, when the possibility opens up. He is someone, in the words of Cornel West, who “is a long distance runner in the freedom struggle against imperialism, racism and capitalism.”

All that taken together means that the occasion of the release of this book will be a special and significant opportunity to bring people together from different arenas and perspectives in a cultural celebration of revolution and the vision of a whole new world.

Such an event could change today’s atmosphere, even perhaps dramatically... in an atmosphere that definitely needs changing! We are in a stifling and dark political moment, but at the same time there is a widespread – if latent – desire for another world and another way. This is particularly true for a generation of youth who have no visible options besides criminalization or commodification, many of whom are right now living and dying for bullshit and worse.

BAsics can play a unique role in changing that, inspiring people to lift their heads, look critically at the world around them and live a life of meaning – a life fueled by the hope and daring inspired by engaging real revolutionary ideas and envisioning a new world.

The event on April 11, on the occasion of the release of *BAsics*, will bring together artists, intellectuals, people from the community and the youth from different perspectives and different strata in a major celebration whose impact could go far beyond the walls of Harlem Stage in New York City. The program will include different kinds of musical performances and poetry readings, along with a visual arts component (either from the stage or an installation in the lobby). There will be readings of letters from prisoners who read *Revolution* newspaper. These are powerful examples of the transformative impact of people in the darkest dungeons responding to ideas of revolution and the work of Avakian with broadness of mind, heart and passion. These will be interspersed with people’s own reflections (from the stage or via video) of what it means to celebrate revolution and the vision of a new world, and readings of quotes from *BAsics*.

This is something that can truly puncture the suffocating atmosphere and impact the societal discourse with Avakian’s words, and with a major celebration of revolution and the vision of a new world.

“You can’t change the world if you don’t know the *BAsics*.”

From a Reader:

The *BAsics* Challenge

As I’ve thought about my own experiences and ruptures, imagining what it would be like to have this multiplied by the thousands, or even millions, I felt even more steadfast in wanting to contribute to ensuring that *BAsics* is able to play the role that it can and needs to play. **That’s why I’ve decided to donate \$200 toward the publication and promotion of *BAsics*** That’s a lot of money for me, but I know that it will take much more than that to really get *BAsics* out there broadly. So I wanted to do more. I wanted to find other people who would be able to match my donation, but I wasn’t quite sure how to do that. That’s when I remembered all my friends who are fellow readers of *Revolution* newspaper. So I decided to bring the challenge here, right to the pages of *Revolution*.

This is the challenge: Let’s really kick off the fundraising for *BAsics* in a big way! **I challenge 10 other people to match my \$200 donation by February 15!** For those who are not able to contribute \$200, you can and should still be part of this challenge: Donate what you can, but do so generously! Everyone’s contributions add up, and we can raise at least \$2,000 by February 15.

Donating is easy. Just make out a check or money order to RCP Publications and send it to:

P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654

Be sure to include a note that you are donating as part of The *BAsics* Challenge. If you want to donate in cash, just take it in to your local bookstore (see p. 15) and let people there know that you are contributing as part of The *BAsics* Challenge.

See p. 10 for the full version of this excerpted letter.

BAsics, from the Talks and Writings of Bob Avakian

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