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# TO THE AMERICAN NEGRO, NEW YEAR GREETINGS:

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The race is now standing at the end of one era and the beginning of another. The world war marks the epochal transition. We are marking time, rather than marching forward. Our churches are augmenting in number, rather than gaining in spiritual power. Our schools are gaining in efficiency but waning in moral energy and inspirational appeal. Our political life is on the retrograde. In business enterprise alone is there encouraging indication of a progressive spirit.

The burden of race reclamation is shifting from philanthropy to our own shoulders. The future service of philanthropy will be material, consultive and advisory. It can no longer be intimate and directive. Two generations of philanthropy have wrought in vain unless the Negro has been enabled thereby to walk on his own feet. The only help that is worth while is the help which helps the helpless to help himself. The Negro must henceforward furnish his own leadership and guide his own segregated life which he is forced to live apart. Race cooperation, not race control, is the way for the future. The best elements of the two must unite in the spirit of mutual respect and good will for the common weal.

Ten million Negroes possess all of the potentialities of civilization. But like the water power of our mighty rivers they have been going to waste for all of the past centuries. Slavery harnessed the Negro's animal and mechanical powers to the crude task of the South's industrial needs. The next task of Negro leadership is to gear up his latent powers to the enginery of race uplift and reclamation.

There is no "fundamental, eternal, inescapable difference" of race which the Negro can recognize in any mood. The Negro must stand, if he stands alone, for the intellectual, moral and spiritual unity of mankind. Religion must not surrender to race. Christianity must not be allowed to compromise with color.

The task which devolves upon the New Negro leadership is as great as any which falls upon human shoulders. An ideal must be formulated which is sufficiently tangible and definite to appeal to the whole race and quicken and inspire their dormant energies. Whether this ideal shall ultimate in America or on some distant continent boots but little. The thought is greater than the thing; doctrine is greater than the deed. A principle is greater than a program. The ideal transcends the deal. Let this be the fulcrum by which we shall uplift the race. I would say to the New Negro leadership; acquit yourselves like men; awake, arise, make ready the New Way for the New Day.