

The Indispensable Weekly
The Voice of the American Negro

THE Negro World

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Reaching the Mass of Negroes
The Best Advertising Medium

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Negroes, Like Men of Other Races, Must Create New Environments and Opportunities For Themselves

Fellow Men of the Negro Race, Greeting:

The effort of the Universal Negro Improvement Association is to create new environments, new opportunities for the race as it stands, and the highest and best purpose we can serve is that of creating a nation which will render to the race all the security that it needs. Against this the many leaders of the race fight. They invariably tell us that to fight for our constitutional rights just where we are and nothing else will be the solution of the problem, but who tells them that we should not fight for our constitutional rights wheresoever we are? The Universal Negro Improvement Association does not say that. But we go beyond that; we say fight also to create a constitution of your own. For this we are regarded as dreamers, and in doing this we are regarded as being unaffiliated to any other rights that the Negro should have. How unreasonable and how unwise? But what do we conclude from our observation, and from our study of those men who oppose the working of the Universal Negro Improvement Association? It is simply this, that they are all willing to follow the line of least resistance, that they are willing to utilize and monopolize the advantages created by the other race, without making the effort to create for themselves, not knowing and not realizing that such people will never yield up such advantages to those who were not fellow workers in the creation; and that is where the great Negro problem comes in, in countries where the Negro forms a minority and other races form the majority. Even though the assistance of the majority has been used in creating new environments and new opportunities, the majority will always vote to the disadvantage of the minority because in the reign of popular suffrage the majority will always vote to the interest of themselves, as against the interest of the minority. Therefore how hopeless it is for us to argue that by merely agitating for our constitutional rights, we will solve the problem of race!

We have been agitating in America for fifty years, and in the West Indies and other parts of the western world for eighty years. What have we gained but a perpetuation of the same problem that deprives us of our rights from the very beginning of this agitation? It is the realization of this hopelessness to ever get a square deal, where as a minority we are at the mercy of the will and caprice of the majority, why the Universal Negro Improvement Association seeks to unite the minority groups of Negroes all over the world such as in America, the West Indies, South and Central America, with the great majority of Africa, for the purpose of creating as a majority that kind of a security through nationhood that will give us the privileges and the opportunities that we want.

Sober, intelligent men cannot reason otherwise, and how these so-called leaders of the race oppose a movement like that of the Universal Negro Improvement Association is impossible to tell, except it is based upon the selfishness of seeing themselves removed from their present individual advantages in this life that deprives the masses of their needs, whilst giving to the few the crumbs that fall from the table. So long as one politician can be elevated here, and another there, and one leader can raise enough to enrich himself here, and another there, these people will always argue that the problem can be solved by agitation where we are. But what of the masses who are not getting anything to warrant their being satisfied? These are the people for whom the Universal Negro Improvement Association fights, and the few who selfishly think of themselves because of their own prosperity are the ones who oppose the program that would seek to elevate the people to the higher life, the life of freedom and larger opportunities.

Therefore it is my duty to warn the masses of Negroes in America as well as the western world, that the time has come for them not to take their guidance from the selfish Negro who, in his own community is prospering, and can see no further than himself, but to evolve from among themselves as a common people, as a common mass, their own leadership, that will feel with them, that will think with them, and will not be afraid to suffer for the ideal of a higher and a nobler life for all the people.

Relying on the stalwart support of the masses, the Universal Negro Improvement Association comes forward with great hope, feeling sure that the future will tell a new tale, and will bring to the people a new knowledge of themselves.

With very best wishes for your success, I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,