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The Indispensable Weekly
The Voice of the Awakened Negro

THE Negro World

Reaching the Mass of Negroes
The Best Advertising Medium

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Africa And the U. N. I. A. Call Upon Negroes to Be Men—To Develop Courage, Faith, Will, Vision, Character, Manhood

FELLOW MEN OF THE NEGRO RACE. Greeting:

I have chosen to write to you today on the subject "Man," because I believe it necessary to bring home to the four hundred million members of our race the truer consciousness of self which cannot be truly appreciated except by a thorough knowledge of the individual whom God has created in his own image. When I say *Man* I do not mean the animal who moves along dressed up in the latest style or fashion, but I mean the individual whose character, whose consciousness of self is of such as to make him truly a Lord of Creation.

In the 1,500,000,000 human souls in the world I hardly believe that we can find 5,000 *real men*: that is to say, the individuals who know themselves, feel the truer consciousness of self, knowing their possibilities and their limitations.

It is not everybody who moves around that is a *real man*. *Man* is the individual who is able to shape his own character, master his own life, and shape his own destiny. When God breathed into the nostrils of man the breath of life, made him a living soul and bestowed upon him the authority of Lord of Creation, He never intended that that individual should descend to the level of a peon, a serf, or a slave; but that he would be always *man* in the fullest possession of his senses and with the truest knowledge of himself. But how changed has *man* been since the creation! We find him today divided into different classes, the helpless, imbecile class, the dependent, sycophantic class, the slave class and the master class. These different classes God never created. He created *Man*, but this individual has retrograded so as to make it impossible for us to find him. It is so difficult to find a *real man*. As far as our race goes I hardly believe that we can find one hundred *real men* who are able to measure up to the higher purpose of the creation. It is because of this lack of real manhood in us as a race why we have stagnated for several centuries, and now find ourselves at the foot of the great human ladder.

The Supremacy of Man

The cry of the Universal Negro Improvement Association is for *real men, men of character, men of courage, men of confidence, men of faith, men who believe that all creation is but the domain of man, and that above men there is no authority but God.* When the Creator created His masterpiece *Man* and placed him in the world as lord of His creation it was meant that *man* should establish sovereignty over the world, that he should subdue all things and use them to his own satisfaction and shape them to his own will. God never intended that *man* should expect Him to do for him that which he should do for himself. After the creation, and after *man* was given possession of the world, the Creator relinquished all authority to His lord but which was spiritual. All that authority that meant the regulation of human affairs, human society, and human happiness was arrogated to man by the Creator, and *man* therefore became master of his own destiny, architect of his own fate. In process of time we find that only a certain type of man has been able to make good in God's creation. We find them building nations, governments and empires, as also great monuments of commerce, industry and education. These men, realizing the power given to them, exerted every bit of it to their own good and to their posterity's. While on the other hand, four hundred millions of us who claim the common Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man have fallen back so completely as to make us today the serfs and slaves of those who full know themselves, and have taken control of the world as given to us all by the Creator.

What the Universal Negro Improvement Association desires to do is to impress upon the four hundred million members of our race that our failings in the past, as well as the present and the future, will

Negroes Must Realize They Have No Masters But God—That All Men Were Created Equal—Must Make Conditions Suit Us—Must Be Masters of Own Destiny

400,000,000 Negroes Must Know Themselves — Must Realize the Blessings of Creation — Must Develop Irresistible Force

Race Needs Men Unafraid of Responsibility, Danger, Death, or Any Condition, Says President-General — Men Who Can Meet Test of Leadership

be through our failure to know ourselves and to realize the true functions of *man* on this mundane sphere.

Fleeting Opportunities

For *man* to know him is for him to feel that there is no human master for him. Nature is his servant, and that whatsoever he wills in nature that shall be his reward. If he wills to be pigmy, a serf, or a slave, that shall he be. If he wills to be a *real man*, in possession of the things common to *man*, then he shall be his own sovereign. When *man* fails to grasp his authority, then he sinks to the level of the lower animals, and whatsoever the *real man* bids him do, even as if it were of the lower animals, that much shall he do. That is to say, there are some of us men (I mean as far as the human form is concerned) who are, in our relationship to others, not better than the lower animals, because to us if the *real man* says go, we go; if he says come, we come. By his command we perform the functions of life, even as by a similar command the mule, the horse, the cow, the dog perform the will of their masters.

The Negro has for the last five hundred years been in the position of being commanded even as the lower animals are controlled. Our race has been without a tail, without a purpose of its own, for all this length of time, and because of that we have developed but few men who are able to understand the strenuousness of the age in which we live. I am sorry to admit it, but nevertheless it is true. I hardly believe that we can find ten *real men* in this race of ours. I repeat, *men of character, men of purpose, men of confidence, men of faith, men who really know themselves.* I have come across so many weaklings who profess to be leaders and in the next I have found them but slaves of a higher class who perform the will of their masters without question. To me a man has no master but God. Man in his authority is sovereign to God. As for the individual man, so of the individual race; the individual race has no master but God; all men are to them equal; there is no superior. This feeling makes *man* so courageous, so bold as to make it impossible for his brother to intrude upon his rights. How few of us can understand what it takes to make a *man*; the *man* who will never say die; the *man* who will never give up; the *man* who will never depend upon others to do for him what he ought to do for himself; the *man* who will not blame God, who will not blame Nature, who will not blame fate for his condition, but the *man* who will go out and make conditions to suit him. Oh, how disgusting life becomes when on every hand you hear people who bear your image, who bear your resemblance, telling you that they cannot make it, that fate is against them, and that they cannot get a chance! Ah! it is painful to contemplate, when the *real man* knows that God gave him all the chances necessary when He gave Creation, when He gave life. What more can we expect? Everything we see in nature has been given to us by God for our own pleasure, for our own use, for our own happiness, and yet man says he cannot make it. How cowardly, how incompetent, how thoughtless, how weak!

Must Know Themselves

And what is the difference between *man*—the one that towers as a giant above the other who, like a pigmy, wallows in the gutter? Because the *giant man*, after discovering himself, utilizes every ounce of his vitality and every particle of his entire being to reach out to the higher things that are within the reach of *man*. That is to say, he hangs his hopes, he pins his confidence as high as human limitations, that limitation that has been set only by God Himself; in the

exercise of his will, that inner set character goes out to achieve, to conquer, to subdue all those things that are possible to man. The other fellow, characterless, because of himself, inconfident, because of himself; hopeless, because of himself; determines that it cannot be done, therefore he will not try. No will, no mental force, no spiritual power, even though he was created with all these things, will he exert. If four hundred million Negroes can only get to know themselves, to know that in them is a sovereign power, is an authority that is absolute, then in the next twenty-four hours we would have a new race, we would have a new nation, we would have a great empire resurrected not from the will of others to see us rise, but from our own determination to rise, irrespective of what the world thinks. Men and women of the Negro race, can you not get such a determination within you? Can you not realize that God Almighty created you to be *real men*, and not pigmies, not serfs, not underlings? Can you not realize God never created a superior man but you? Can you not realize you are the reflection of your own creator and that you were created in His image, and that when you accept of a superior being you admit that there is no superior God? If you bear the image of your Creator, then God is made manifest in you, and if you accept a superior being, you accept an insult to the God that is within you. God is only pleased with *man* when he measures up to the higher spirituality that is in him, which is no other than God Himself. When *man* reduces himself to become the slave and lackey of his fellow, he drags down the Spiritual Omnipotence of God in him.

Fundamental Social Laws!

If we could but understand ourselves the more as others seem to do, we would in a short time find ourselves living in a new world, surrounded with new conditions and enjoying new pleasures.

Let those of us who have the ambition for leadership first study to know how much confidence we have in ourselves, because there can be no leadership where there is no confidence.

Around me I see many petty men who think they know, who think they are great, when in truth they have not yet discovered themselves. I have seen them smart under the stare of the white man, I have seen them tremble under the verbal attack of the enemy. I have seen them almost trying to hide themselves in retreat, because of the physical charge of the oppressor, and yet these fellows call themselves leaders. Whither leadest thou? To me it is but to perdition, to another age of darkness, of slavery, of racial destruction. We, I say, want men of courage, men of character, men of conviction, who are not afraid to stand up at any time, even in the face of death, even confronting the lion in his den, there willing to suffer anything for the rights that are dear to this race of ours.

A Cabinet of Brains!

I hope the forthcoming convention will give us such *men, men* whom we can safely send out to the four corners of the world, and have them defend this race of ours; men whom we can count upon as being able to withstand the test of the leaders of the other races of the world.

Among the men in the world that I admire are such noble characters as David Lloyd George and Arthur J. Balfour of England, Clemenceau, Briand and Poincaré of France, Ishi and Kato of Japan; Lenine and Trotsky of Russia; Ghandhi of India; Garfith, Collins and DeValera of Ireland; Hughes, Harding and Wilson of America. In vain do I look for such characters in the Negro race, and I have not been able to place them!

Let us now look forward to our Sixth International Convention with the hope of finding *real men* who are able to measure up to the expectations of the day.

How You Can Help!

You will help the Universal Negro Improvement Association to lift this race of ours by your moral and financial support to the cause. Now more than ever you should stick by this great organization and give us the necessary financial help to put over this big program. Now is the time to subscribe to the Convention Fund, so as to supply the organization with the necessary credit to in every detail carry out the great work that has been planned. The convention this year will call for the expenditure of large sums of money, in that many important delegations are to be sent abroad to interview the different Governments of Europe and the League of Nations in the interest of the race, as well as many statutory legislations are to be put into effect which will entail much expense.

Send in your donation now to the Registrar, Universal Negro Improvement Association, Kingston, Jamaica, B. W. I.

With very best wishes I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

Marion Garvey

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GET READY FOR THE CONVENTION—ALL ROADS WILL LEAD TO KINGSTON, JAMAICA, B. W. I.

