

Unfinished Business_

UNIA Economic System and Entrepreneurship as a Solution

The Honourable Marcus Mosiah Garvey

By HUGH FRANCIS:

Think Of This:-

1. Can we run clean businesses?
2. Can we set-up religious institutions that speak to the needs of the people?
3. Can we run hospitals?
4. Can we run ships?
5. Can we run all of the things that we see other people running?
6. Can we run those same institutions in our community?

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Ladies and Gentlemen;

Every so often....someone or something comes along that makes us sit up and pay attention. Someone that touches us at a level much deeper than routine....something that whispers to the soul because it holds value, honesty and integrity. Pay attention. The Honourable Marcus Mosiah Garvey is one such someone – he knows no boundaries... in fact, he erases them: - he is a modern miracle. If he hadn't appeared when he did, I would have had to invent him.

Centenary Celebration of the UNIA and Complete Restoration of Garvey's good name:

So, as we celebrate the Centenary of the establishment of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and pay tribute to the legacy of one of our greatest organisers and leaders - who served the African World Community, during his 52 years; - the time seems appropriate for the United States and Jamaican Governments to declare null and void the legal proceedings that unjustly sent Marcus Garvey to jail in both countries. Nor should a mere "pardon" suffice, presupposing as it does, the presence of guilt to begin with. "You will see that from the start we tried to dignify our race." Garvey says to a New York jury, "If I am to be condemned for that, I am satisfied."

Look For Me In The Whirlwind: *One God, One Aim, One Destiny:*

Look for me in the whirlwind or the storm, look for me all around you, for I shall come and bring with me countless millions of black slaves who have died in America and the West Indies and the millions in Africa to aid you in the fight for Liberty, Freedom and Life.

Today, we still look for Garvey in the whirlwind because his vision and commitment created a magnificent whirlwind on behalf of the poor and the dispossessed, and because he stood firmly for the rights of all Black people, at home and abroad – under the special banner, 'One God, One Aim, One Destiny,'

About This Modern Miracle - Marcus Garvey:

This modern miracle, (Marcus Mosiah Garvey) was born on 17th August, 1887, in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, where he attended grammar school. He also received private instruction from his godfather Alfred Burrows, who ran a printery. At 14, Garvey was apprenticed to Burrows to learn the printing trade.

Foreign Travels: Acting *Global Thinking Tribal*:

Marcus left Jamaica to work in Costa Rica about 1910. Observing the working conditions for blacks, Garvey became determined to change the lives of his people. He left Costa Rica and travelled throughout Central America, working and observing.

He visited the Panama Canal Zone and saw the conditions under which the African-Caribbeans lived and worked. He went to Ecuador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia and Venezuela. Everywhere, he saw blacks experiencing great hardships and suffering prejudice.

The Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA):

Marcus returned to Jamaica in 1914. Convinced that uniting blacks was the only way to improve their condition, Mr. Garvey launched the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), becoming president.

The UNIA was an organisation that sought to unite into one solid body the 400 million Negroes of the world; to link up the 50 million of the United States of America, with the 20 million of the West Indies, the 40 million of South and Central America with the 280 million of Africa, for the purpose of bettering our industrial, commercial, educational, social and political conditions.

After corresponding with Booker T. Washington, Marcus went to the United States of America in 1916 to give a lecture tour.

AIMS: *Ambition Ideas Motivation Success*:

In May 1917, Garvey started the New York Division of the U.N.I.A. with 13 members. After only three months, the organisation's dues-paying membership reached 3,500. In 1919, Garvey and the UNIA established the Black Star Line for the dual purposes of carrying African Americans to Africa and promoting the idea of black enterprise. By June 1919, the membership of the U.N.I.A. had grown to over 2 million members. By 1920, the U.N.I.A. had 1,100 chapters in 40 countries around the world. By 1926, the membership of the U.N.I.A. had grown to over 6 million members. Marcus Garvey built the largest Black organisation in history.

Garvey built huge businesses, encouraged entrepreneurship, and urged millions of people to buy from Black-owned businesses. He taught us all to be proud of our race and unite as a people. In his own words, "Be Black, Buy Black, Think Black, and all else will take care of itself!"

The impact of Marcus Garvey has been huge. Inspired by his ideas, over 30 African countries have declared their freedom from colonisers, and many sport Garvey's Red, Black and Green colours in their flags.

Unfinished Business... Enterprise & Entrepreneurship: ¥€\$:

Mr. Garvey established the Negro Factories Corporation and offered stocks for African Americans to buy. He raised one million dollars for the project.

He wanted to produce everything that a nation needed so that African Americans could completely rely on their own efforts. It generated income and provided jobs by its numerous enterprises, including a chain of grocery stores and restaurants, steam laundry, tailor shop, dress making shop, millinery store, clothing, fashion, hats, accessories, publishing house and doll factory.

In New York City alone, Garvey owned several buildings, owned a fleet of trucks and had over 1,000 Black people working in his businesses. The U.N.I.A. also operated the Phyllis Wheatley Hotel, 136th Street, New York. Mr. Garvey's ultimate dream was for the independence of all African Countries and the creation of a United States of Africa.

Marcus Garvey has inspired every major black movement of the 20th century, both in Africa and the Americas. Followers of Garvey's ideology include Hon Elijah Muhammad, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and leaders of African Independent States.

Rasta: Selassie: Reggae:

Rastafarians consider Mr. Garvey to be a religious prophet, and more specifically the reincarnation of John the Baptist. This was partly because Garvey said in the 1920's, "Look to Africa, for there a king will be crowned" which was taken as a prophecy about the crowning of His Imperial Majesty - Haile Selassie.

The Rasta founders were a part of Garvey's Back-to-Africa movement in Jamaica, and in its doctrines the Rastafarian movement can definitely be seen as an offshoot or development of Garvey's philosophy. His beliefs have fundamentally shaped Rastafarianism. He is a popular theme in Reggae music, and especially those of Burning Spear, Sizzla, Mighty Diamonds, Maxi Priest, The Wailers; Peter Tosh, Bunny Wailer and Bob Marley.

Redemption Songs:

*Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery,
None but ourselves can free our minds.
Have no fear for atomic energy,
Cause none of them can stop the time.*

One Love:

One Love, One Heart, Let's get together and feel alright.

F.L.Y: First Love Yourself:

Mr. Garvey teaches us that the time has come for the Negro to forget and cast behind him his hero worship and adoration of other races, and to start out immediately, to create and emulate heroes of his own. We must canonise our own saints, create our own martyrs, and elevate to positions of fame and honour black men and women who have made their distinct contributions to our racial history. Sojourner Truth is worthy of the place of sainthood alongside that of Joan of Arc; Crispus Attucks and George William Gordon are entitled to the halo of martyrdom with no less glory than that of the martyrs of any other race. Toussaint L'Ouverture's brilliancy as a soldier and statesman outshone that of a Cromwell, Napoleon and Washington; hence, he is entitled to the highest place as a hero among men.

If our community 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 community, we would have a people, a nation, an 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.

2020 Vision: *Inventing The Future:*

I stand here before you tonight, not on my feet, but on my thoughts, a Beneficiary of the past, a Participant in the present and crucially, a Custodian of the future. The challenge now is for us to build on what we've learned from Mr. Garvey of the 20th century, take the leap into the rabbit hole and pull-out even more effective strategies for achieving black economic, scientific, social, racial, educational and spiritual success in the 21st Century.

The message could not be more explicit: The way you make sense of the future in organisations, and in society and in your own life, is by taking charge of the future. Not by responding to it. We have to make an intellectual leap from the linear to the non-linear. From the known to the unknown. From terra firma to terra incognita.

To make the future happen we need to be self-confident and to believe in our own growth. That's what schools should teach us.

Community Development Strategy:

The principle focus, I believe, towards 2015 and beyond, relative to Black Cultural Institutions and in particular, Grassroots Community Institutions, must be one of Economic Development and Employment issues, primarily for those organisations that have survived the first 2 to 3 years of organisational life.

Frequently cultural institutions when managed properly have the ability to “cut across” economic, racial, religious and community lines. The fact that this is true suggests that a similar methodology may well be applied to the operational mission of these organisations.

By this I mean that there is no fore gone conclusion, in my mind, that suggests that a cultural institution cannot look at job training, research and development activities and entrepreneurship as relevant, viable extensions of its organisational purpose.

Control: *Social Engineering:*

Within our society, there is a battle being waged. It's a psychologically devastating battle because the weapons being used are everyday things that we've always been told are good for us. We've been told that television is entertainment. We've been told that newspapers exist to keep us in touch. We've been told that magazines and books are for our enjoyment and education, but they too are used to narrow our minds, limit our dreams, distort our past and erase our future.

As artiste and entrepreneurs, you should realise that being on television is not a victory if the images that you present are created by someone else in order to keep things as they are.

It's not the ultimate victory to have the power of communicating to the world, if what you say is chosen by someone else and doesn't make things better for you or your people. It's not the ultimate victory any more to be in business, if there is someone above you still controlling your destiny.

Once you understand the nature of the battle, you understand that what's at stake is control. Control of the medium. Control of our thoughts. Control of our words. Control of our images. Control of our business. Control of our finances. Control of where and how we are positioned in adverts. Control of where we shop. Control of where we eat. Control of where we live. Control of our very existence. Control of our future.

Now you recognise this fact, you must pick them up and use them for your own purposes. Use your words to educate. Create your images to send messages of who you once were, who you are, who you wish to be. Build on those images to improve yourself expectations. Build on those expectations to influence the behaviour of your people. Expose that behaviour to send new messages to your people and to the world. Victory lies in deciding which images are in your best interest, and in having the power to create them and get them seen. Victory is in creating jobs for others like you. Victory lies in owning, deciding and doing for self. Victory lies in countering the assault by sending your own messages. Victory is in building something with the power to create, educate and elevate.

Excel: An Internal Decision:

With the advent of UK MPs such as; the late Bernie Grant, Diane Abbot and David Lammy, coupled with Barack Obama as President of the United States of America, major stride in technology and human development on the one hand, planetary extinction on the other plus, multiculturalism, diversity, the Internet, Computer, Microsoft, Smart-phone, Facebook, Twitter, Google, Amazon, eBay, Apple, Intellectual Capital, Intellectual Property and the value of African History as an investment, for the first time, in generations, we have the capacity, again, to participate in our own evolution, to function as co-trustees in the process.

I believe the topic is an exciting one and could well form the basis of more serious inquiry as discussions move forward.

The Truth:

So, as I Read, Study, Visualise and Perform (RSVP), the ideas and philosophy of the Honourable Marcus Garvey and his work during the 1920's, I see that when Mr. Garvey came and taught the word to black people, right behind the word he began to produce institutions in the black community, to show us that we can do things.

1. We can run clean businesses;
2. We can set-up religious institutions that speak to the needs of the people.
3. We can run hospitals
4. We can run ships
5. We can run all of the things that we see other people running
6. We can run those same institutions in our community.

The Bible teaches that “faith without work is dead”, - man shall have nothing but what he strives for, and his striving shall soon be seen. Not seen after death, not seen only by his children later on, but his striving must be seen, and that word striving, talks about work. The question is what is the work?

We must look at the suffering masses of our people. Mr. Garvey said, there must be an out-reach programme for our people. And as you reach out to bring people to a word, you must bring them to the institutions that speak to the needs of the people in that hour.

There are things that Black people need in order to survive, in order to live a decent life, in order to be able to smile in the morning. You must, if you understand, produce those institutions for Black people. This is the drive, or the thrust right now.

The Higher-Self:

We must build those institutions in the Black community, we must reach out and get our people wherever they are and bring them and make sure that they have the things that they need, in order that we can survive as a people. The Honourable Marcus Garvey taught us that there are two selves. There is the higher-self and a lower-self. We know about the lower-self, because in this world, we have been taught to serve the lower-self, but we have never had a real knowledge of our higher-self.

Rise:

We must look at what is happening among the Youth in the UK today, the Black youth. Who’s taking the time to give them the attention that they need in this hour?

A lot of young black men are preying on each other (not PRAY – prey). What is it about a young Black man or black woman that they would want to prey on each other?

It represent that there is no hope, there is no future that they can see, there is nothing to reach for, nothing to strive for. There’s despair and they are looking down. We must cause them to look up. How can we do this?

Invictus:

The Bible says – ‘The Kingdom of God is at hand’. That means your hand must produce The Kingdom.

When you begin to build, there is no greater feeling that a man or woman can have, than to see the handy work of their own hands:

1. When they see a school going up that they suffered, sacrificed and worked to build.
2. When they see industry in the black community that they worked to build.
3. When they see jobs that they produced for their own people.

That is one of the greatest feelings that man or woman can have, when they see the accomplishment of their own hands.

The World Is Running On Bluff:

They say that; a body at rest will stay at rest until it's acted upon by an external force. The Honourable Marcus Garvey is a Force Majeure:

Right now, we have to examine ourselves;

1. What do we want and what do we want to do?
2. How do we want to go about this thing?
3. What are we reaching for?
4. What do we want in our personal life?
5. What would we like to see for our children?
6. Do we think that we can run a black nation?
7. Do we think that we can run institutions?
8. What does my future hold for me, if I continue where I am at right now and what must I do tomorrow to change things if I want a better tomorrow for my children and my relatives, my family, my friends and my people? We must now look at this and ask this question.

Unity: A Way Forward:

What Marcus Garvey achieved in the 1920's was only a sign of what we can do if we work together in unity. And that unity is not a narrow unity; it is broad in its concept. It doesn't just encompass a few people who believe as we believe, but it encompasses all of Black Britain in this hour.

If we look at the condition of the Black Community across the world, we see that Black people are suffering. They need direction, it's almost as if they're standing there waiting for somebody to say; what shall I do? The Honourable Marcus Mosiah Garvey steps into that and say;- this is the direction for Success; Prosperity, Freedom, Justice and Equality!

Simply; – what's good for the Black Community - is good for Britain.

With God's dearest blessings, I leave you for awhile.

One God, One Aim, One Destiny, One Love.



YES

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