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# The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey 1887-1940

Quotes by and about Marcus  
Mosiah Garvey





“History is the land-mark by which we are directed into the course of life. The history of a movement, the history of a nation, the history of a race is the guide post of that movement’s destiny, that nation’s destiny, that race’s destiny.”

-The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey

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“ Garvey had enjoined the Negroes of his time to know themselves, to become aware of the great potential of their blackness and to enjoy the pride that flows from this awareness. His Philosophy and Opinions” is full of such injunctions.”

-Professor Rex Nettleford  
Former Vice-Chancellor, UWI

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“What you do today that is worthwhile inspires others to act at some future time.”

-The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey

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“Marcus Garvey was the first man of colour in the history of the United States to lead and develop a mass movement. He was the first man, on a mass scale, to give millions of Negroes a sense of dignity and destiny and make the Negro feel that he was somebody.”

-Martin Luther King Jr.  
American Negro Leader

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“Ambition is the desire to go forward and improve one’s condition. It is a burning flame that lights the life of the individual and makes him see himself in another state. To be ambitious is to be great in mind and soul.”

-The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey

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“ I read Hegel, Karl Marx, Engels, Lenin and Mazzini. The writings of these men did much to influence me in my revolutionary ideas and activities...But...the book that did more than any other to fire my enthusiasm was ‘Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey.’ It was unfortunate that I was never able to meet Garvey.”

-Kwame Nkrumah  
Former President of Ghana



“ Chance has never yet satisfied the hope of a suffering people. Action, self-reliance, the vision of self and the future have been the only means by which the oppressed have seen and realized the right of their own freedom.”

-The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey





“...in 1921, Kenyan nationalists, unable to read, would gather round a reader of Garvey’s newspaper, The Negro World, and listen to an article two or three times. Then they would run various ways through the forest, carefully to repeat the whole, which they had memorized, to Africans hungry for some doctrine which lifted them from the servile consciousness in which Africa lived.”

-Jomo Kenyatta  
Former President of Kenya

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“You will make excuse that you have been in slavery for three hundred years. We excuse you for that; but you have been emancipated now one hundred years, and it is time that you were able to stand upon the same level as the other peoples, understanding nature and nature’s laws.”

-The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey

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“ It was Marcus Garvey’s philosophy of Pan-Africanism that initiated the entire freedom movement, which brought about the independence of African nations. And had it not been for Marcus Garvey and the foundations led by him, you would find no independent nations in the Caribbean today...All the freedom movements that are taking place...in America were initiated by the work and teachings of Marcus Garvey.”

-Malcolm X

Black Activist whose father was a vice-president of the UNIA in Detroit

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“Let no voice but your own speak to you from the depths. Let no influence but your own raise you in time of peace and time of war. Hear all, but attend only that which concerns you.”

-The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey



“ Mr. Garvey...made a tremendous impact . When I was a little boy of 11 years old, I went to my uncle’s home and saw the picture there of a black man on the wall...in those days we never had pictures of black people on any wall...I said to my uncle, “Who is that man?” And my uncle said, “That is a man who has come to unite all black people.” I immediately loved him...so I stood on a chair to drink in his features and I asked my uncle where is this man so that I can meet him and join him. My uncle looked at me and said he was dead. Tears began to run down my cheeks-for I felt I had come so close to the deliverer and he was gone.

-Louis Farrakhan

Black Muslim minister. The founder of that movement.

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“ The ends that you serve that are selfish  
will take you no further than yourself; but  
the ends you serve that are for all, in  
common, will take you even into  
eternity.”

-The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey



*“A race without authority and power, is a  
race without respect.”*

*–The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey*

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“ Marcus Garvey sa[id]: ‘ Africa towards Africans.’ You can’t argue with that...If we find the roots again, we can live.”

-Bob Marley  
Singer

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“God Almighty created us all to be free. That the Negro race became a race of slaves was not the fault of God Almighty, the Divine Master, it was the fault of the race. Sloth, neglect, indifference caused us to be slaves.

Confidence, conviction, action will cause us to be free men today.”

-The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey

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“ I was first a ‘hooper’...Soon I was a front liner and then a feature dancer with partners in front of the front line. A large UNIA conference was being held and Mr. Garvey gave me permission to sit in on sessions. My observations later formed the basis of successful monologues I performed, imitations some of the more eccentric and popular delegates.”

-Ranny Williams  
Actor



“God and nature first made us what we are,  
and then out of our own creative genius,  
we make ourselves what we want to be.”

-The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey

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“...his idea of relaxation was to go around to antique shops and buy old pieces and antiques. When he brought them home he would spend time and patience placing them in the right setting, colour scheme and effective lighting...He enjoyed sitting in an easy chair and contemplating the beauty of the setting he created.”

-Amy Jacques Garvey



“ What night is to the day, is woman to man. The period of change that brings light out of darkness, darkness out of light, and semi-light out of darkness are like the changes found in woman day by day.

She makes one happy, then miserable. You are to her kind, then unkind. Constant yet inconstant. Thus we have WOMAN. No real man can do without her.”

-The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey

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