

: : : UNITY EDUCATION and REPARATIONS  
THE PROCESS of LIBERATION

Education is a process of instilling the values of a nation, race, society, group or ethnicity, into the minds of their people. It is the method by which people are taught their position in life and connection to their nation, race, communities and families, and their relationship to the rest of the world. Furthermore, education defines the function of a society and strives to help one become an active participant in the growth and development of a given nation, race, society and/or ethnic group. It is in this context that we understand that education is an important process in helping a people acquire power to look out for their best interest, especially when it comes to fighting racism, the glass ceiling, and other social norms and policies which exclude blacks from equality and self-actualization.

It should be obvious by now that most African-American children who attend public schools are not receiving a proper education. Their schools lack qualified teachers, a safe environment, and standard supplies. We should also mention their education can be described as lacking information to instill knowledge of self and self-worth. That is learning the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic. In many instances even this bad form of schooling is occurring on a very minimal basis with African-American children. Many of them are simply passed on in the K-12 schools to make room for next year's students. They are not learning the skills it takes to compete in the current or future job market, and the history of racism and racial attacks has given them learning disabilities, a bad tension span and they need discipline. They do not have images in their books that look like them, nor do they learn about the history of their homeland or ancestors. They are just going through a system because everyone has to go to school, but they are in an environment that is not clean or safe which takes the focus off of education.

African-Americans would be much better off if they take the time to build new schools, provide their own teachers, and design a favorable curriculum including their heroes and sheroes, that would provide them with a good education, and lead them to gainful and meaningful employment for group progress. It is important for us to observe the work of one of our great Black Scholars, Carter G. Woodson, in helping solve this awesome problem in education that keeps Black people in a constant state of mental captivity. Brotha Woodson told us in his great book, published in 1933, "The Miseducation of the Negro", "That the same educational process which inspires and stimulates White people with the thought that he is everything worthwhile, depresses and crushes at the same time, the spark of genius in African-Americans, by making them feel that their race does not amount to much, and never will measure up to the ideals of others". Woodson made it clear that an African-American educated in this manner is a hopeless liability in pursuing justice for their people. This is still the central problem with the educational system today as it relates to Black people.

Therefore, our task becomes one of the continued struggles to reconceptualize the mission of education for Black people. This reconceptualization must be based on the premise that Woodson set forth when he said, “African-Americans will free themselves from exploiters just as soon as they decide to do so. No one else can accomplish this task for them. They must plan on working towards this goal and find as much time and energy to develop solutions for situational problems, as they do in planning for celebrations and vacations, and move in a mode of strict urgency. {African-Americans have been victims of racism, violence, and discrimination for hundreds of years, yet and still we know they can not wait to toast or assemble for pleasurable purposes}. However, the state of Black America requires that a limit is set on all events of this nature, especially spending money at the oppressors businesses during holidays, so that those of us who have the ability to do something for our race, will begin to do so, by joining forces with the AAIU, which in turn will send a message to the oppressors, saying Black people are on the road to recovery, and that they demand an immediate halt to racist and exploitative practices, and that their desire is to be treated as equals in society. African-Americans will never get any kind of power to solve their problems if they do not unite and adhere to these, or similar suggestions.

Essentially their mission should be that of establishing their own educational agenda that is based on creating a new African-American, with the idea that if you get a good education you will get a good job, even though, they should know by now that there is not necessarily a correlation between going to school and getting a job, but a good education will help. They should also realize that the education they receive certainly has nothing to do with the upliftment of their race. The task of reconceptualizing a new educational ethos is to understand that their mission should be to make themselves whole persons again. Making them whole is within the process that utilizes education in the context of their own spiritual, cultural, and social needs.

The new educational ethos must rest on the idea that the group interest of their race is more important than that of any individual. In other words, the only way they will become educated and independent is through group thinking and group action, not by actions of individuals. Therefore, they should unite and prepare with the AAIU UD Plan. Their purpose for becoming educated should be one of helping to build a Reparations Movement to liberate themselves from oppression and racism, so that they can build a new economic, political, and social agenda for themselves, as they struggle to link up with African people all over the world!

This new education and uniting will facilitate the reorganization of the African-American family structure, as they struggle to defend themselves, and become an economically self-sufficient people, by registering the AAIU as a power base focusing on businesses in sovereignty to produce, process, distribute, wholesale, and retail goods and services, just like every other race.

Education and Unity are Key for Liberation,  
Brotha Pruitt