Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others

By: W.E.B. Du Bois
The Black Sacrifice

- Political Power
- Insistence on Civil Rights
- Higher Education of African American Youth
Consequences of the Black Sacrifice

- Lack of political power: disfranchisement of African Americans
- Ignoring civil rights: Legal creation of a distinct inferiority for African Americans.
- Lack of higher education goals for African American youth: Withdrawal of aid from institutions for higher training of the African American
Criticisms of a life which, “Beginning with so little, has done so much” (177).

- Submission to the white south in order to maintain support
- Leader of two races as a “Compromiser between the North, the South and the Negro” (179).
- Economic goals outweigh higher aims
- Washington’s plans as “A gospel of Work and Money” (180).
Washington’s Contradictory Plan

- Accumulation of wealth before suffrage leaves African Americans with an inability to defend their hard-earned property.
- Self-respect cannot be upheld if African Americans are asked to behave passively.
- Condemns higher learning but employs academics as teachers at his own school.
W.E.B. Du Bois asks that African Americans strive for the following:

- The right to vote.
- Civic equality.
- The Education of youth according to ability.
The Attitude of Southern-Whites

“The ignorant Southerner hates the Negro, the workingmen fear his competition, the money-makers wish to use him as a laborer, some of the educated see a menace in his upward development, while others – usually the sons of the masters – wish to help him to rise” (183).
Booker T. and W.E.B.

A poem by Dudley Randall

Conclusion

- W.E.B. Du Bois calls black men to surpass Washington’s aims of thrift, patience, and industrial training
- The central goal is human rights