



**HOMMAGE TO DAVID BROTHERS:
WORTHY SON AND SERVANT OF AFRICA**

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DR. MAULANA KARENGA

It is how we live our lives that determines the meaning and measure of our death for us and others. Some live so selfishly they leave only a mole hill of meaning and memories, but some live a life deeply rooted and rich in service and thus leave a mountain of meaning and memories which stand as a monument for all eternity. This is the meaning of the Hon. Marcus Garvey's teaching that "the ends 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." David Brothers, our elder brother in struggle, co-founder and Central Committee member of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP), who passed last week, served well the cause of African and human freedom. And thus we gathered together in various Ceremonies of Transition and Memory to bear rightful witness to the meaningful work and legacy of this worthy son and servant of Africa that will last into eternity.

Moreover, it is written in the sacred *Husia* that "to do that which is of value is for eternity. A person called forth by their work, does not die, for their name is raised and remembered because of it." So in the tradition of the ancestors, we of the Organization Us are honored to raise and praise the eternal name and work of this our ancestor and elder brother in struggle, Marehemu (Blessed One) David Brothers.

Let us begin this sacred remembrance and rightful homage by extending heartfelt condolences of shared loss to his family, friends and loved ones; greetings in solidarity and struggle for all those still "on the case for the race;" and a humble, yet strong challenge to all to honor our brother David best by continuing and intensifying

the liberation struggle to which he dedicated and disciplined his life.

Let us raise up his five royal and righteous names as practiced by our ancestors of ancient Egypt to reaffirm the high honor in which we hold him, and to recall and recommit ourselves to the life-lessons he left us. First, let us recognize and honor him in his name: *soldier-servant* of our people, one who dedicated his life to the liberation struggle for African people; who in this unwavering commitment mobilized, educated and organized the masses around their own interests and was, as Osagyefo asked us all to be, "submerged in service." Indeed, he was one who did what was necessary and needful; engaged the liberation struggle as a way of life; and whose battle-cry was "hold the line, maintain the structure, light the fire, and forge the future in struggle."

Let us recognize and honor him in his name *true believer*, one who believed profoundly and unalterably in the potential and power of the masses of our people, and the need of progressives, radicals and revolutionaries to aid them in their coming-into-conscious, forming disciplined organizations and in their work and struggle to win freedom and live good and meaningful lives. He believed in being irreversibly committed to a pan-Africanist, revolutionary and socialist philosophy leading to the liberation, transformation and reconstruction of Africa and the world African community as represented in the aims of the AAPRP for which he worked tirelessly to the end of his life in this world.

Let us recognize and honor him in his name *seedplanter*, one who taught us to plant the seeds of liberation everywhere and work patiently and tirelessly to make them grow, even if we are not able to see them

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2

blossom, flower and bear fruit in our lifetime. “We are planting seeds,” he told us. “We are working for the next generations.” Indeed, he reminded us that “seeds don’t bloom the next day or week. It takes time. It is a process.” And we must have the patience, perseverance and commitment to follow thru with it with faith and fire.

Let us recognize and honor him, then, in his name *firelighter*, one who practiced and called for a dedicated, disciplined and sustained lighting of fires, i.e., the practice of helping to produce the heat, light and power that would, as we say in Us, “transform the people into self-conscious agents of their own life and liberation and transform society in the process.” He wanted us to fire up ourselves, the people and the Movement, to arouse and raise the passion for freedom, expand and deepen the desire for liberation and lift up the light of consciousness that fosters the active commitment and leads the way to a free, proud, productive and self-determining Africa.

And let us recognize and honor him as *exemplary elder*, one who was rich in the experience of eighty-seven years overwhelmingly given to service and struggle, wise in the ways of life and struggle, a mentor and moulder of the young, a counselor for those concerned with righteous principle, proper practice and rightful attention, as we say, to “issues of dedication, discipline and sacrifice.” We of Us honor our elder brother and new

ancestor, David Brothers, as a friend and ally in struggle with whom we found common ground in our shared commitment to the struggle for African liberation, the rejection of character assassination and convenient “neutrality” towards it, and dishonest denial of any group’s obvious and ongoing contribution to the Movement.

In the midst of a Movement fractured, fragmented and fraught with self-destructive and internecine struggles, this stand by him and another ancestor and giant of our generation, Marehemu Kwame Ture, his colleague and co-founder of the AAPRP, was of great meaning to Us and to the shared vision of a rebuilt and renewed Movement. Indeed, it reaffirmed the African understanding of our obligations and practice to uphold the good, find common ground and build on it in principled and productive ways.

Certainly, we trust that we can always measure up to this conception of life and struggle which he, Kwame and we, as students, of Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah and Sekou Toure and others, committed ourselves to since the 60’s. It is this steadfastness in principle and practice which will best honor his legacy and insure our own. For he, like Kwame Ture, has set his fires on earth, over the water and in the heavens. And as is promised in the *Husia* for all the righteous and doers of good, “He shall surely be honored among the ancestors. His name shall endure as a monument. And what he has done on earth shall never perish or pass away.” Hotep. Ashe, Heri.

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