

American Minute with Bill Federer

"Cast Down Your Bucket Where You Are" - Booker
T. Washington's famous Racial Reconciliation
Speech, & his warning against that era's Critical
Race Theory

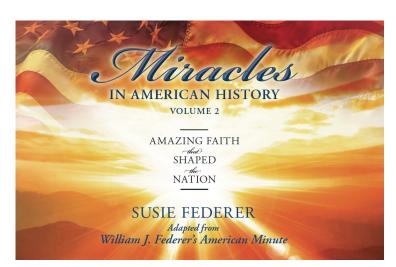
Booker T.
Washington
addressed the
racially mixed
crowd at the
International
Exposition in
Atlanta,
September 18,
1895:



"A ship lost at sea for many days suddenly sighted a friendly vessel.

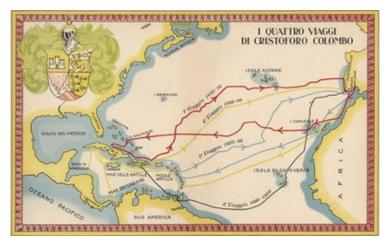
From the mast of the unfortunate vessel was seen a signal, 'Water, water; we die of thirst!'

The answer from the friendly vessel at once came back, 'Cast down your bucket where you are.'"



Miracles in
American HistoryVol. TWO:
Amazing Faith that
Shaped the Nation

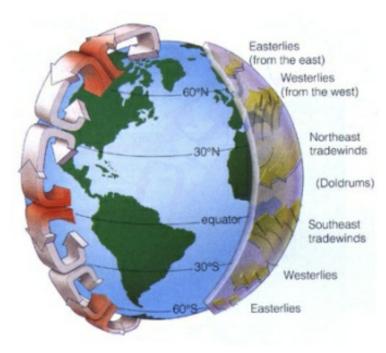
To understand the significance of **Booker T. Washington's story,** some background is helpful.



On Columbus'

third of his four attempts to reach India and China, he sailed south along the **west coast of Africa** before heading **west across the Atlantic Ocean**.

His voyage was
the first ever to
experience and
record the
"doldrums" -- a
dangerous
condition near the
equator where
there is intense
heat and no wind.





This region was later named
"horse latitudes" by subsequent unfortunate sailors headed to the New World.

Stranded in the
"doldrums" for
weeks, sailors
baked in the hot
sun and ran short
of drinking water,
as the salty ocean
was undrinkable.

To save what little water they had left, they reportedly pushed overboard the horses they were transporting.

In 1498, after
Columbus drifted aimlessly for eight days in the doldrums, and running out of drinking water, he prayed and vowed that if the winds returned, he would name the first land he saw after the Holy Trinity.



The winds returned and on JULY 31, 1498, **Columbus** sighted



an island off the coast of Venezuela which coincidentally had three peaks rising from the bay.

He obtained fresh water for his sailors and in the process was the first European to see South America.

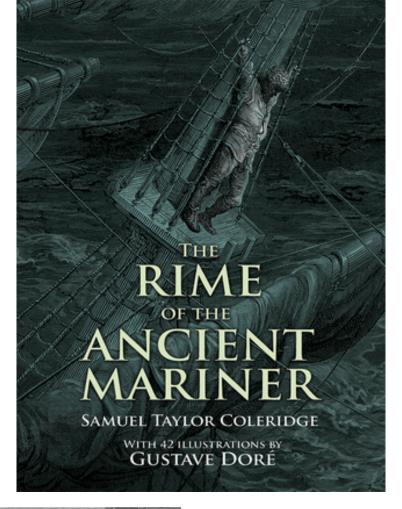




Columbus named the island Trinidad in honor of the Holy Trinity.

The doldrums
were described by
English poet
Samuel Taylor
Coleridge in his
lyrical poem, "The
Rime of the
Ancient Mariner,"

1798.





A ship was lost in the ice of Antarctica, but was providentially led out of it by a larger sea-bird, an albatross.

Disregarding its help, the captain shot the albatross, and brought a curse upon them:

"With my crossbow,

I shot the albatross."

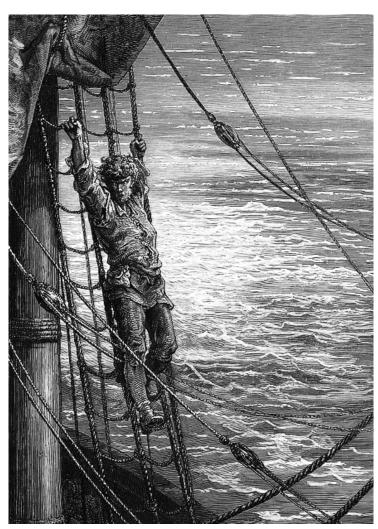
Though they escaped the ice, the ship was later stranded in the doldrums near the equator as punishment for the captain killing the albatross:



"Day after day, day after day, We stuck, nor breath nor motion; As idle as a painted ship Upon a painted ocean.

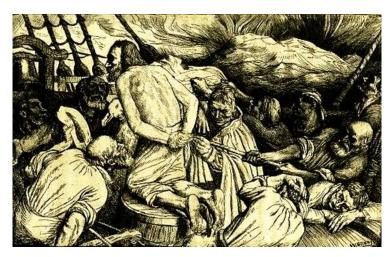
Water, water, every where, And all the boards did shrink; Water, water, every where, Nor any drop to drink.

The very deep did rot – **Oh Christ!**



That ever this should be. Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs, Upon the slimy sea."

The dying crew blamed the captain and hung the dead albatross around his neck:

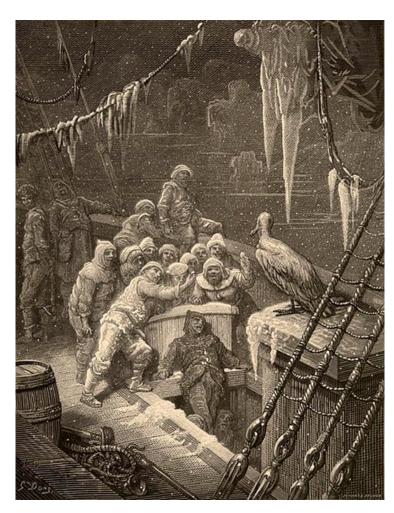


"Ah! Well a-day! What evil looks

Had I from old and young!
Instead of the cross, the albatross
About my neck was hung."

When the captain finally repented of his misdeed, the dead albatross fell from off his neck, and the wind supernaturally began to blow:

"The air is cut away before, And closes from behind."



When the captain spotted land, he thought he was seeing a dream:

"Oh! Dream of joy!
Is this indeed
The light-house top
I see?
Is this the hill? Is
this the kirk
(church)?
Is this mine own
country?

We drifted o'er the harbour-bar,
And I with sobs did pray—
O let me be awake,
my God!
Or let me sleep alway."





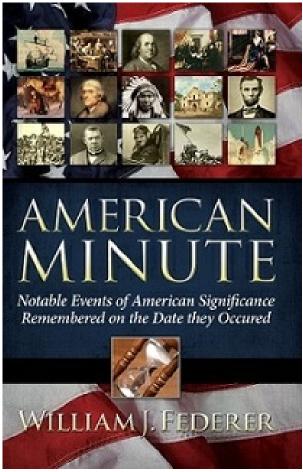
After reaching land, the captain then spent the rest of his life wandering and telling the story of his crime, repentance and salvation.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge concluded his

poem:

"He prayeth best, who loveth best All things both great and small; For the dear God who loveth us, He made and loveth all."





American Minute-Notable
Events of American
Significance
Remembered on the
Date They Occurred

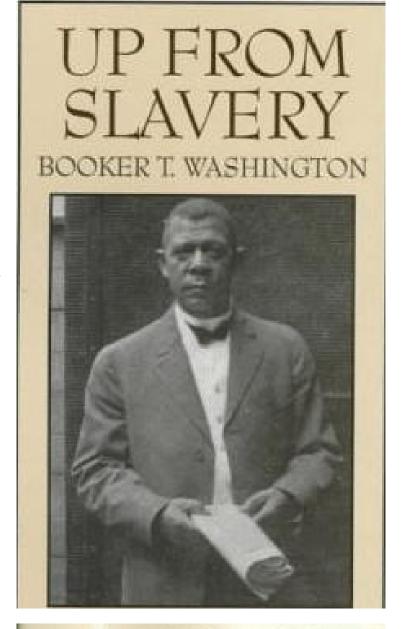
The **doldrums** were referred to by

Booker T.
Washington, the
President of
Tuskegee
Institute, in his
famous address at
the International
Exposition in
Atlanta,
September 18,
1895, attended by
President Grover
Cleveland.

As recorded in *Up From Slavery*(1901), **Booker T. Washington**urged **racial reconciliation**:

"Atlanta was literally packed, at the time, with people from all parts of the country, and with representatives of foreign governments, as well as with military and civic organizations.

... The afternoon papers had forecasts of the



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stions of social equality

the extremet felly, and that progress in the enjoyment of all the privileges that will come to us must be the result of severe and constant struggle rather than of artificial foreing. No race that has anything to centribute to the markets of the world is long in any degree contracticed. It is important and right that all privileges of the law be ours, but it is vastly more important that we be prepared for the exercises of these privileges. The opportunity to carn a dollar in a factory just now is worth infinitely more than the opportunity to spend a dollar in an opera-bouse.

In conclusion, may I repeat that softning in thirty years has given us more bepo and encouragement, and drawn us so near to you of the property of the property of the Exposition; and here bending, as it were, over the altar that represents the results of the struggles of your race and mise, both starting practically empty-handed three decades ago, I piedge that in your effort to work out the great and intricate problem which God has laid at the decars of the South, you shall have at all times the patient, synapathetic help of my race; only let this be constantly in mind, that, while from representations in these balldings of the protocut of field, of forest, of mining of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of forest, of minings of the protocut of field, of field, of the field of the

Atlanta Exposition Address

Delivered by

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

september, 1885

Atlanta, Georgia

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CITIZENS:

One-third of the population of the South is of the Negro race. No enterprise seeking the material, civil, or moral welfare of this section can disregard this element of our population and reach the highest success. I but envey to you, Mr. President and Directors, the sectiment of the masses of my race when I say that in no way have the value and manhood of the American Negro been more fittingly and gencrously recognized than by the managers of next day's proceedings in flaring headlines.

All this tended to add to my burden. I did not sleep much that night.

... The next morning, before day, I went carefully over what I planned to say.

I also kneeled down and asked God's blessing upon my effort.

Right here, perhaps, I ought to add that I make it

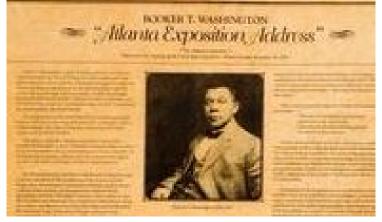
a rule never to go before an audience, on any occasion, without asking the blessing of God upon what I want to say ..."

Washington continued:

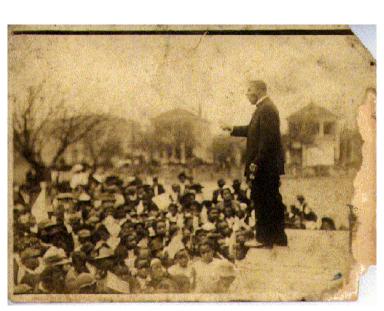
"A ship lost at sea for many days suddenly sighted a friendly vessel.

From the mast of the unfortunate vessel was seen a

signal, 'Water, water; we die of thirst!'







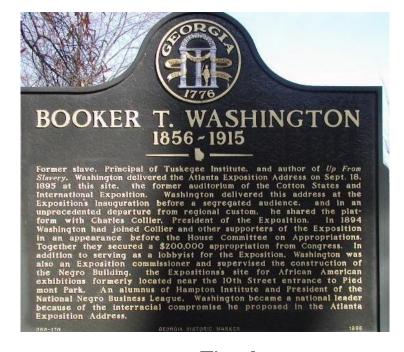
The answer from the friendly vessel at once came back, 'Cast down your bucket where you are.'

... A second time the signal, 'Water, water; send us water!' ran up from the distressed vessel, and was answered, 'Cast down your bucket where you are.'



And a third and fourth signal for water was answered, 'Cast down your bucket where you are.'

The captain of the distressed vessel, at last heading the injunction, cast down his bucket, and it came up full of fresh, sparkling water from the mouth of the Amazon River."



The Amazon
River is
considered he
longest river in
the world,
stretching across
4,345 miles.



Where it enters the Atlantic Ocean, the Amazon is approximately 110 miles wide, discharging 7 to 11 million cubic feet of fresh water per second, which is 20 percent of the world's river water entering the ocean.



The Amazon
River is so
powerful that it
pushes a stream
of drinkable
water, 100 miles
wide, out into the
ocean for nearly
300 miles.



This is where the ship was that Washington described in his speech.

Booker T.
Washington
continued his
Atlanta address:

"To those of my race who depend on bettering their condition in a foreign land or who underestimate the importance of cultivating friendly relations with the Southern white man, who is their next-door neighbor, I would say:



'Cast down your bucket where you are' - cast it down in making friends in every manly way of the people of all races by whom we are surrounded ..."

He continued:

"To those of the white race who look to the

incoming of those of foreign birth and strange tongue and habits of the prosperity of the South, were I permitted I would repeat what I say to my own race:



'Cast down your

bucket where you are.' Cast it down among the eight millions of Negroes whose habits you know, whose fidelity and love you have tested."

He concluded:

"Casting down your bucket among my people, helping and encouraging them as you are doing on these



grounds, and, with education of head, hand and heart, you will find that they will buy your surplus land, make blossom the waste places in your fields, and run your factories.

While doing this, you can be sure in the future, as in the past, that you and your families will be surrounded by the most patient, faithful, law-abiding, and unresentful people that the world has seen ...

... As we have proved our loyalty to you in the past ... so in the future, in our humble way, we shall stand by

you with a devotion that no foreigner can approach, ready to lay down our lives, if need be, in defense of yours, interlacing our industrial, commercial, civil, and religious life with yours in a way that shall make the interests of both races one.



In all things that are purely social we can be as **separate** as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to **mutual progress** ...

In your effort to work out the great and intricate problem which **God has laid at the doors of the South,** you shall have at all times the patient, sympathetic **help of my race** ...

Yet far above and beyond material benefits will be that higher good, that let us pray God will come, in a blotting out of sectional differences and racial animosities ...

This coupled with **our material prosperity**, will bring into our beloved South **a new heaven and a new earth."**

Booker T.
Washington
warned not to
follow those
pushing that era's
version of the

theory (My Larger Education-Being Chapters from My Experience (1911, ch. V: The Intellectuals and the Boston Mob, p. 118):



"There is another class of colored people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs, and the hardships of the Negro race before the public.

Having learned that they are able to **make a living out of their troubles**, they have grown into the settled habit of **advertising their wrongs** -- partly because they want sympathy and **partly because it pays**.

... Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs ...

There is a certain class of raceproblem solvers
who do not want
the patient to get
well, because as
long as the disease
holds out they have
not only an easy
means of making



a living, but also an easy medium through which to make

themselves prominent before the public."

"You can't hold a man down without staying down with him."

Booker T. Washington

Washington also wrote:

"The man is unwise who does not cultivate in every manly way the friendship and goodwill of his next-door neighbor, whether he be black or white."

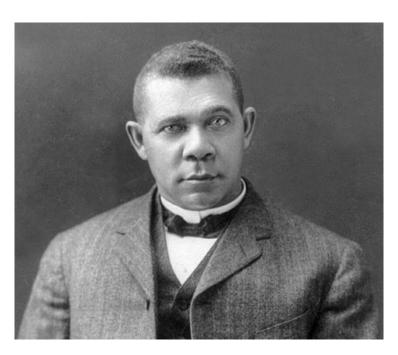
"One man cannot hold another man down in the ditch without remaining down in the ditch with him.

"To hold a man down, you have to stay down with him."

"I will permit no man to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."

Booker T.
Washington
wrote in his daily
resolves:

"To keep in mind that no one ever makes a sacrifice who does every day the simple, plain duty of **lifting up the unfortunate.**"



"To keep in mind that service to our fellows will always

be our **greatest protection**, and will bring our **greatest happiness**."

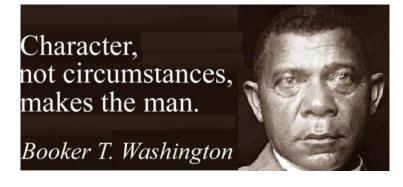
"Remember that the only way to show ourselves superior to others is to **excel them in kindlier impulses** and **more generous deeds.**"

"To realize that the surest way to lift up ourselves, **is to lift up someone else** ...

The harder the work required on account of the ... unpopularity of the individual to be helped, the greater will be the strength and happiness gained."

Washington added:

"You may fill your heads with knowledge, or skillfully train



your hands, but unless it is built upon high, upright character, upon a true heart, it will amount to nothing."

"Character, not circumstances, makes the man."

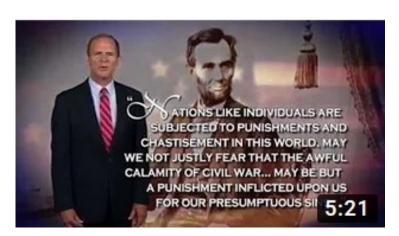
"Opportunities never come a second time, nor do they wait for our leisure."

"Great men cultivate love ... Only little men cherish a spirit of hatred."

Read as PDF ... "Cast Down Your Bucket Where You Are" - Booker T. Washington's famous Racial Reconciliation Speech, & his warning against that era's Critical Race Theory

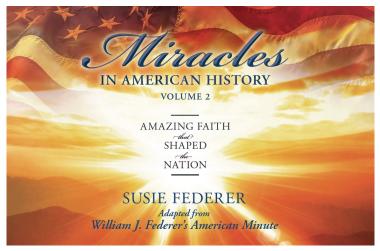
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Amazing Faith that
Shaped the Nation



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