



Harlem Renaissance: An intellectual and cultural revival of African American music

Azahari A. H.*

Department of Culture and Performance, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Nigeria.

DESCRIPTION

The age was an intellectual and cultural revival of African American music, dance, art, fashion, literature, theater and politics centered in Harlem, Manhattan, the big Apple City, spanning the 1920s and 1930s. At the time, it absolutely was called the "New Negro Movement", named after *The New Negro*, a 1925 anthology edited by Alain Locke. The movement also included the new African-American cultural expressions across the urban areas within the Northeast and Midwest u. s. full of a renewed militancy within the general struggle for civil rights for African-Americans that occurred within the wake of civil rights struggles within the then-still-segregated US soldiers in WWI and which was further inspired by the NAACP, the Garveyite movement.

Until the tip of the war, the bulk of African Americans had been enslaved and lived within the South. During the Reconstruction Era, the emancipated African Americans, freedmen, began to strive for civic participation, political equality and economic and cultural self-determination. Soon after the top of the war the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 gave rise to speeches by African-American Congressmen addressing this Bill. By 1875, sixteen African Americans had been elected and served in Congress and gave numerous speeches with their newfound civil empowerment.

Party politicians (many having been former slave owners and political and military leaders of the Confederacy) conspired to deny African Americans their exercise of civil and political rights by terrorizing black communities with lynch mobs and other styles of vigilante violence in addition as by instituting a convict labor system that forced many thousands of African Americans back to unpaid labor in mines, on plantations, and on construction projects like roads and levees. Convict laborers were typically subject to brutal kinds of punishment, overwork, and disease from unsanitary conditions.

During the first portion of the 20th century, Harlem was the destination for migrants from round the country, attracting both people from the South seeking work and an informed class who made the realm a middle of culture, likewise as a growing "Negro" socio-economic class.

These people were searching for an opportunity in life and this was an honest place to travel.

Harlem became an African-American neighborhood within the early 1900s. In 1910, an outsized block along 135th Street and boulevard was bought by various African-American realtors and a church group. More African Americans arrived during the primary warfare. Because of the war, the migration of laborers from Europe virtually ceased, while the war effort resulted in a very massive demand for unskilled industrial labor.

Another landmark came in 1919, when the communist poet Claude McKay published his militant sonnet "If We Must Die", which introduced a dramatically political dimension to the themes of African cultural inheritance and modern urban experience featured in his 1917 poems "Invocation" and "Harlem Dancer". Published under the pseudonym Eli Edwards, these were his commencement in print within the us after immigrating from Jamaica. Although "If We Must Die" never alluded to race, African-American readers heard its note of defiance within the face of racism and also the nationwide race riots and lynching then happening.

Believe it or not, dance has its unique benefits such as:

- It's an excellent stress buster
- It relieves stress
- It tones body and offers shape
- It uplifts your spirit
- It enhances your metabolism
- It gives a possibility to monotonous life
- It helps in losing weight