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A Former Head of the Tuskegee Institute Describes The Road He Traveled to Achieve His Dreams

FINDING A WAY OUT

*The Inspiring Story of a Life Devoted to Freedom,
Opportunity and Justice in Post-Civil War America*

by Robert Moton

Robert Moton kept at the forefront of the advancement of the black race. Through his work as educational leader, he promoted the education of the race — Notable Black American Men

Knowledge about the American social environment in the transitional period following the Civil War is still incomplete in certain respects. Robert Moton, a respected black educator and a tireless promoter of racial harmony, has left us a memoir that provides a unique and valuable perspective on the progress in civil rights from the 1860s to the 1920s. **FINDING A WAY OUT** (Bylany Press) describes the critical changes in American culture that gave blacks the opportunity to attain a social rank never before envisioned.

Moreover, this work is a detailed record of a great “success story”. Despite being born to former slaves, he was able to secure the assistance of many kind and generous benefactors. He recounts his own spectacular rise from extreme poverty, to a highly admired position of authority, giving us an “inside look” as to how such a transformation is possible. Moton reached his zenith when he took up the leadership of the Tuskegee Institute after Booker T. Washington, and he was the one chiefly responsible for establishing the famous hospital for black war veterans. This chronicle of his life is certainly interesting and instructive, and is especially inspirational for young people, showing them the value of education, discipline, hard work, and cooperation.

One area that has exceptional potential for study is the human capacity for creative adaptation to challenges. In regard to this, **FINDING A WAY OUT** provides much information about the methods blacks used to obtain schooling and jobs in an American society that promised freedom and opportunity, but that in reality still had many restraints and restrictions. On a more personal level, **FINDING A WAY OUT** documents the manner in which a young black man, armed with little more than determination and confidence, could reach one of the highest rungs of the success ladder in the United States, despite the odds.

Robert Russa Moton (1867-1940) was born in Virginia to former slaves. He received excellent vocational and liberal arts instruction at the Hampton Institute, a school with a military form of discipline. Moton, like many other members of his race, was concerned that blacks would not be able to suffi-

ciently prove to whites that they were indeed capable of taking up their places as productive citizens, thus justifying their emancipation. He was also troubled about the misunderstandings that arose due to cultural differences. Consequently, he used every opportunity to articulate the distinctive and positive attributes of the various races he encountered, including Native Americans, Europeans and Asians.

One of the great strengths in **FINDING A WAY OUT** is the portrayal of a series of developments that shows how someone of the most humble background is able to achieve a high rank in society. By following a string of events, one can see the success building. Although it is a truism to say everyone's life is different, when it comes to investigating the lives of eminent and accomplished persons certain key events, breakthroughs, or turning points are often seen. Moreover, these milestones are facilitated by important people who are ready to help the individual find that critical turn in the road.

Paul Dennis Sporer (editor) is the author of *The Dimensions of Companionship*; *Liberating Love*; *The Concept of Family*; and *Equal but Different*. He has also served as editor on more than 30 culturally and historically significant books, including *Painting Explained*, by Thomas Gullick; *Is Secession Treason?*, by Albert Bledsoe; *The Heart of Aryavarta*, by Lawrence Dundas; *Beauty and Art*; by Aldam Heaton; *The French at Home*, by Albert Rhodes; *From Slave Cabin to Pulpit*, by Peter Randolph; *Newer Ideals of Peace*, by Jane Addams; *Views of Old Europe*, by Bayard Taylor; *Gentle Measures*, by Jacob Abbott; *Parental Influences*, William Bacon; *Finding a Way Out*, by Robert Moton; *The New Birth*, by Austin Phelps; *Tupelo*, by John Hill Aughey; *An Incident of Travel*, Arthur Jerome Eddy; *End of an Era*, by John Sergeant Wise; *The Missionary*, by Samuel Mazzuchelli; *Half a Century*, by Jane Swisshelm; *Born Three Times*, by Thomas L. Johnson; *Dark Hollow*, by Anna Katharine Green; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **FINDING A WAY OUT**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, Paul Dennis Sporer, please contact Cassandra Foxton, inform_at_anzapublishing.com. The publisher's website address is AnzaPublishing.com.

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