

# I am Queen Mary Speech

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## Opening

**Queen Mary, oh where you gon' bun? Queen Mary oh where you gon' bun? Don't ask me nothin' at all. Just give me for the match and oil.**

Today we gather to pay tribute to a heroine, a Queen in the African language of:

Afrikaans, koningin

in Chickewa, mfumakazi

in Hausa, Sarauniya

in Igbo, eze nwanyi

in Sesotho mofumahali,

in Somali Boqoradda,

in Swahili malkia,

in Yoruba ayaba,

in Zulu indlovukazi our QUEEN!

To LaVaughn and Jeanette, two African Queens using their skills as visual artists, their vision the lighter fluid used to ignite the flames, the flames for the rebirth of a narrative, a story of a woman whose burning desire to free her people from slave like conditions in a post-slavery Danish West Indies their humanity the ashes representing the remnants of an unfair labor system and status as a peoples with no national identify for Denmark never bestowed citizenship upon them, them being the African Danish West Indian. How befitting this is in the Third Year of the International Decade for People of African Descent, Queen Mary a woman from the island of Antigua, the birthplace of my maternal lineage who like my grandmother, great-grandmother and grandfather moved to St. Croix and made St. Croix their home, the

people she embraced as her fellow African-Caribbean brothers and sisters is now being honored as symbol of freedom and revolution in a place where she was once pegged as a criminal for her actions against colonialism.

May we be reminded of the story of 4 Afro-Caribbean women led by Queen Mary, and Queens, Mathilda, Susanna and Agnes on that fateful October 1, 1878 led a successful revolution while resulting in their incarceration here in Denmark resulted in repeal of the oppressive Labor Act that subjected them and their fellow African brothers and sisters to conditions akin to slavery.

Queen Mary now is positioned here as we witness, as a fixture, a symbol of triumph over evil, in front of space where the byproducts of slave labor from the Danish West Indies was once brought. Queen Mary sits on her throne, where she appears contemplative on the accomplishments of her rise up against the Danish empire, the Danish crown, on behalf of a people, she held as her people up against a system entrenched with the power to continue the legacy of slavery through the establishment of the Danish West Indies as a colony.

WE CAN THEREFORE embody her spirit, and a Virgin Islander of the United States, and all others who know first-hand what it means to be defined as a colonial subject, as someone deemed not worthy of the full rights as a citizens, we must then DECLARE that I AM QUEEN MARY and steps towards deconstructing that reality!

So in closing, I would like to I dedicate a poem I wrote in recognition and in honor of Queen Mary's work, her fight against racism and oppression:

**Poem: MY PEOPLE!**

**The Thoughts & Expressions of an African Warrior Fiyabuhn Queen**

My People My People My People  
We Are Not FREE!

My People My People My People  
Don't you see how the man we once called herre (our masta) still treat  
WE as if we are still his PROPERTY?  
Doesn't this still feel like SLAVERY?

My People My People My People  
How come the Danish Government (and in today's time the U.S.  
Government) treats us as subjects, inhabitants of a racist system of  
second-class CITIZENRY?

My People My People My People  
We are still considered as subjects of a COLONY.

My People My People My People  
Will you join the fight our fight our HUMANITY!

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Resources:

<https://www.indifferentlanguages.com/words/queen>

<https://www.virgin-islands-history.org/en/history/fates/the-three-rebel-queens/>

<http://blackartblog.blackartdepot.com/black-history/three-rebel-queens-virgin-islands.html>