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### My 95 Years of Life

"The problem with the twentieth century is the problem with the color line" (Rampersad). Even though I suffered hardships in my younger years, I grew up into a strong writer and professor.

When I was born my father left me and my mother alone to raise me. Also my aunts, uncles, and close friends helped take care of me up until I could walk and talk (Hall). Later on in my life in 1896, I caught the eye of my true love and soon to be wife. Nina Gomer and I had two amazing children, Burghardt and Yolande. Three short years later my son died in 1899 which deeply affected me and my wife (Rampersad).

"I was an outstanding student while I was growing up" (Hall). In high school I had a lot of color discrimination in my school but that never stopped me. I was the first African American to graduate as Valedictorian from Great Barrington high school. "I entered Harvard University in 1888 as a junior and I was also the first African American to get my PhD. from Harvard" (Hall). In 1894 to 1896 I taught a college class for two years at Wilberforce University in Ohio where I met my true love. Shortly after meeting Nina I accepted a job at the University of Pennsylvania as a professor in 1896 (Rampersad).

Later on in my life was just as amazing as my younger life. I wrote and published two novels. "The Quest of the Silver Fleece" in 1911 and "The Dark Princess" a romance in 1928 (Burghardt). I was one of the founders for the NAACP, and the *Crisis* Magazine (Burghardt). The *Crisis* Magazine inspired me to write "The Negro" (Rampersad). In 1944 the NAACP wanted me to return back to them and be director of a special research (Burghardt).

Even though I suffered hardships in my younger life, I lived an amazing 95 years of life. Can you make your life as extraordinary as mine?