Abolition Fanaticism in New York City: A Runaway Slave's Unwavering Voice

In the tumultuous years leading up to the American Civil War, abolitionism emerged as a powerful force in the United States, challenging the deeply entrenched institution of slavery. New York City, a hub of commerce and cultural exchange, became a focal point for the abolitionist movement, attracting activists and refugees alike. Among those who sought refuge in the city was Frederick Douglass, a former slave who would become one of the most prominent abolitionists of his time.



Abolition Fanaticism in New York Speech of a Runaway Slave from Baltimore, at an Abolition Meeting in New York, Held May 11, 1847 by Frederick Douglass

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	Language	: English
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On July 4, 1843, Frederick Douglass delivered a speech at the New York State Anti-Slavery Society's annual meeting. The speech, entitled "Abolition Fanaticism," was a passionate and eloquent indictment of slavery and those who defended it. Douglass's words resonated deeply with the audience, many of whom were already sympathetic to the abolitionist cause.

In his speech, Douglass argued that slavery was a sin against humanity and that it could not be tolerated any longer. He denounced the Fugitive Slave Act, which required Northern states to return escaped slaves to their masters, and he called for the immediate emancipation of all slaves.

Douglass's speech was met with both praise and criticism. Some praised him for his courage and eloquence, while others condemned him as a dangerous radical. However, the speech had a profound impact on the abolitionist movement, and it helped to galvanize support for the cause.

Frederick Douglass's speech is a powerful reminder of the horrors of slavery and the importance of fighting for justice and equality. His words still resonate today, and they continue to inspire people around the world to fight against oppression.

Below, we provide an extended excerpt from Douglass's speech:

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""The man who tells us that we must not agitate, is telling us not to think, not to speak, not to act. The man who tells us not to agitate, tells us to consent to our enslavement. The man who tells us not to agitate, tells us to submit tamely to the oppressor's lash. The man who tells us not to agitate, tells us to allow our children to be dragged into slavery, and our wives to be sold on the auction block. But we will not be silent. We

will not be idle. We will not be submissive. We will agitate; we will speak; we will act.""

Frederick Douglass's speech is a reminder that the fight for justice is never easy. However, it is a fight that must be fought, and it is a fight that will ultimately be won.

Additional Resources

- National Park Service: Abolition Fanaticism Speech
- Documenting the American South: Frederick Douglass
- History.com: Frederick Douglass



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