



"I Was Born Into My Destiny"

ANDREW JACKSON YOUNG, JR. was born on March 12, 1912, during the Great Depression, just under a year before President Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated for the first of his four terms. The economic crisis gripping the nation was brutal, but the dental practice of his father, Dr. Andrew Jackson Young, Sr., and the schoolteacher's income of his mother, Daisy Fuller Young, made the family relatively middle-class, meaning that they owned their shotgun house in an inner-city neighborhood shared with Protestants, Catholics, Blacks, whites, Crookes, and even Nazis. In his own words: "There was an Irish grocery store on one corner. There was an Italian bar on another corner. The headquarters of the Nazi party was on the third corner, and a Chevrolet dealership was around the fourth corner." Growing up in such a varied neighborhood, Andrew Young had to develop his diplomatic skills at a young age.

Young has always considered himself more of an international citizen, not only because of New Orleans' status as an international city, but also personally: his mother was of Creole heritage, his father black and Indian, and his maternal grandfather was Polish. This exposure to different cultures in his formative years became the foundation of his life as a preacher, activist, politician, and philanthropist.

