

# Islam's Hidden Gift to the World; The History of the Black Muslims in Spain

by Darryl Muhammad

Black History month is good and meaningful, but it seems to leave muslims out of the equation. In addition, it should not be restricted to the historical accomplishments of Black slaves in America. We need to go beyond Malcolm and Martin. The Hon. Elijah Muhammad was one of the first leaders in America to direct the minds of the people back towards the east. Because of his courageous stand in a time when it was unheard of and almost ludicrous to promote "Black History," today a profusion of research has been done to prove that the Black man is at the root of civilization. Scholars and historians alike have presented overwhelming evidence that proves the Teachings of the Hon. Elijah Muhammad to be right and exact. He correctly cited the Black man as the source and the basis of Western civilization. Let us explore the contributions of North African Muslims, more commonly known as Moors.

Being reared in America has certainly had its limited advantages, but one of the greatest tragedies is the complete removal of the accomplishments of the Moors in Spain from Western history books. It is however vaguely mentioned in the history of Islam, which attributes most of the magnanimous accomplishments to the Arabs. It is true that the Arabs received the Divine Revelation called the Qur'an that revolutionized the

known world at that time. However, in the early Eighth Century Islam came to North Africa and the Moroccans laid hold to it and forged ahead to Spain and, for six centuries, ruled it in splendor and glory. It became known as Al-Andalus (Islamic Spain). North Africa and Southern Spain are connected by a small body of land called the Iberian Peninsula. In 711 A.D., Tarik ibn Ziyad, a North African muslim, led 10,000 troops to the tip of Spain and seized the Visigoth capital. Many modern historians have attempted to play the "name game" by referring the Moors as "Berbers," which of course means something other than Black. Nevertheless, a general of Alfonso X (meaning the 10th) stated, "Their faces were as black as pitch, the handsomest amongst them was as black as a cooking pot."

By 937 A.D., the Moors had occupied Sicily, Maghrib, Messina and Palermo. The Umayyad dynasty came to Spain in the Tenth Century. Though the Umayyad family were Arab by descent, the two main figures in establishing its dynasty in Spain were from Africa.

In fact, Abd-al-Rahaman I (1st) recruited 40,000 well trained troops directly from Africa to assist in the settling of Spain.

Around the Seventh, through Tenth Century Europe was in the Dark Ages. There

was no form of civilization coming from the Europeans. In fact the rulers of Europe at that time had trouble spelling their names. It's true. It was not until the conquest of Spain by the Moors that bathing became a regular practice in Spain. The Enlightenment Age in Europe is something that every American student is familiar with. Western textbooks floods the minds of its pupils with magnificent scientific achievements in astronomy and physics by such famous scholars as, Nicolaus Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton. It always puzzled me when I studied world history in college that most of the credit for meaningful human development was linked to Europeans, furthermore most of the textbook was dedicated to them. Napoleon said that "history was a set of lies agreed upon." Agreed upon by whom?! And for what?!

The west has achieved great heights in all fields of human endeavor. Its existence is due to discoveries by previous generations and it owes it allegiance to Moorish culture. As the Hon. Elijah Muhammad and the Hon. Louis Farrakhan teach, Islam is the nature of the Black man. When Islam reached Africa, it re-generated the natural expression of God inside. And with Islam Africa made great strides in many fields of endeavor. Some Afrocentric scholars may beg to differ with

the above statement. Just remember, if Africa was fully awake at the emergence of Islam, then the religion would not have germinated in the culture. Africa had been conquered by outside forces prior to the coming of Islam. The last great leap into science prior to America's emergence came from the emanation of Islam. And the west is built on the basis of what Islam opened up to the world. Now let's see if this is true.

Ivan Van Sertima writes, "Nearly all major universities in Europe sprung up around the same time, beginning in the second half of the 12th century right up through the 13th, a period which coincides with the flowering of Moorish science and the establishment of centers in Europe to translate Moorish treatises from Arabic to Latin. In Italy we have Bologna, in France, Montpellier,....in England, Oxford,.....Several Moorish works in math, astronomy and medicine became standard texts at these universities. For example, Judwal, a Moorish work in astronomy, became standard text at Oxford." John G. Jackson writes, "They introduced the silk industry to Spain....they introduced rice, sugar cane, dates, ginger, cotton, lemons, and strawberries etc....The Spanish city of

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