



# THE CLEAR VOICE

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## WHEN WILL HISTORY TRANSCEND TO OUR STORY?

Each year, we spend 28 days of the shortest month, otherwise known as February, to celebrate Black History. Year after year, we honor the same individuals who, to their credit have made contributions to our society, but those contributions have yet to encourage masses of black people to end the embarrassing and vicious psychological cycle of having disregard for one's self and kind. Black History Month is an opportunity for individuals to reflect on the "meaningful" contributions made by fellow blacks. Somewhere down the road, we never got on the right track.

Black History Month originated as Negro History Week in 1926. The selection of the second week in February was due to the birth of two supposedly important and influential individuals—as it relates to blacks—President Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass. The time period for the celebration of Negro History Week was in honor of the birth of a former slave-owner and abolitionist and a former slave. The irony of it all should make individuals question why we have continued for countless years to allow mainstream society to tell us that it is ok to celebrate our history during the month of February rather than throughout the year.

With all of the honor and respect that we pay to others, we continuously fail to take an educated look at the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Fifteen days of Black History Month has passed at the time that this commentary was written and in 2009 Black America has sailed into the month without making a conscious effort to publicly study something new. As a society, we are still caught in the euphoric feeling of making history by "electing" our first black president. We have made it to the promise land—or have we?

Our lack of courage and desire to read books written by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad shows that as a people, we still have the shackles of slavery around us. It is often said

that if you want to hide something from the black man and woman, put it in a book. This saying could never be as true as it is today. Over the last several years and also in recent days, as a nation, we have witnessed an economic crisis, natural disasters - such as deadly hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, etc. and yet we won't pick up at least one of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's books; to read about the very acts that are currently taking place - that was written well over 20 years ago.

What, has the black man and woman programmed to dislike anything associated with Muhammad? The answer is fear – the fear of learning the true knowledge of God and self. According to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, even after 100 years up from slavery we have not made any effort to produce something out of the time that the Divine God has given to us. Instead, we utilize God's time to seek instant and superficial gratification as a means to resolving our issues. To add insult to injury, we continue to disrespect and ignore a man who was revered as divine.

Today, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad has been overlooked by many and revered by a few. Isn't it time to stop following the masses—since this has led us to a continuous path of destruction? Isn't it time to follow the path of the "road less traveled" and become amongst the select individuals who have gained a true knowledge of God, self, and others which has caused a positive change in their lives? Why not choose to open your mind and heart to learn about a man who sacrificed for over 44 years to teach you, black man and woman of America—so that you may take your rightful place under the sun? This year, rewrite *history*; let *history* become *our story*. *Our story* is one that future generations can learn a wealth of knowledge—and be proud!

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*The Clear Voice is a monthly editorial written by Aginah M. Muhammad is for the purpose of providing an invigorating Islamic perspective on current issues. If you would like to comment or have questions regarding the editorial, send an email to [croe@croe.org](mailto:croe@croe.org). Please include the title of the commentary in the subject area of the email.*