

Black History

By: Ebony Muhammad



Each February blacks in America are patronized and belittled with the celebration of Black History Month. During this shortest month of the year, the histories of prominent black figures are resurrected so that blacks can feel as though they have some honorable and worthy history in America as modern free slaves. Those highlighted each month include black scientists, inventors, educators, athletes and other entertainers. They were primarily slaves and ex-slaves whose accomplishments are usually at the benefit and profit of the enemy who enslaved us so terribly that Carter G. Woodson deemed it necessary to establish a Negro History Week.

Figures such as Nathaniel Turner and Marcus Garvey who struggled for the blackman's independence are usually glossed over. One was murdered for leading a revolt against black enslavement and inhumane mistreatment; the other was arrested, imprisoned and deported for organizing black people to unite and free themselves of white, racist tyranny. Black history month is a time during which black men and women don African garb, sing the Negro National Anthem and praise how "far" they've come and how much has been accomplished. Undoubtedly, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and W.E.B. DuBois are mentioned in notable terms.

In the discussion of how far we've come, the beginning is almost always slavery. We often take a very superficial examination of the humility and struggle we endured to be able to vote, ride in the front of buses and enter restaurants and hotels through front doors. We rarely, if ever examine the mind and nature of a people who are capable of not just constructing and selling slave ships but also brutalizing, destroying and enslaving an innocent group of people, not just for 10 days, 10 months, 10 years or 100 years. The American white man's enslavement of the black man, woman and child in such a tortuous fashion resulted in a black population which was broken in a manner unprecedented in world history.

The objective of black history month is to remember important black people, events, culture and to instill a sense of pride in black people. However, for the wide awake black man and woman, the celebration has offensive and patronizing overtones. First, there is the singing of the 'Negro' National Anthem. A 'Negro' Anthem? You see, in our sojourn in America, we clearly remain very confused in our true identity. The major components of most black celebrations reflect this confusion. Here's proof: 'African Americans' are members of a National Association for the Advancement of 'Colored' People and sing a 'Negro' National Anthem to gain and reflect Black pride. This confusion and identity disorder permits our mockery by the world. The anthem's lyrics say:

**"Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope
unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which
our fathers sighed?"**



HISTORY IS A WEAPON

So-call American Negro Black History is nothing more than the celebration of accomplish under the foots of Black people slave masters. It's not enough to give us a through knowledge of ourselves

No black man and black woman! Our feet have NOT come to the place for which our fathers sighed! Our ancestors who were assaulted for decades and generations did not pray for a third class role in a morally bankrupt and unjust society. Those men and women prayed, wished, fought and died for peace, justice, freedom, self determination and retribution. We have not arrived to any meaningful place for which we should find ourselves content. We sing about the chast'ning rod; we sing about the stony road we trod...is there not someone responsible for the bitterness and callous treatment which we endured? Has God given that someone a 'pass' for their viciousness? Should we worship a God that has? We ignore white people's direct accountability in our agony yet we are singing high as the rolling skies and marching until victory is won. Brother and Sister, no song or march is going to give us the freedom, respect and recognition of civilized and worthy people. We have been abused in the most sadistic of manners and our violator has not even so much as offered an apology nor has this wicked white man provided the means for us to become whole: body, mind and soul!

Now television, schools and radio are turning us to look back in the past. And we are so silly to bask in the glory of these great black ancestors. It was their ground breaking and innovative minds which bore new capabilities that white society utilized to further marginalize us from an equal's share! Remember, a slave's inventions are his masters, not his own. So the master utilized a mind far greater than his own to advance his society. It is the same as the slavemaster using the physical endurance of the black slave to cultivate profits to become the worldwide leader. We have become pacified with a few jobs, college grants, fancy cars and million dollar fools and we have traded in the pain of our ancestors for the mere image of success.

Now the black man and woman are amused and content despite the hell that many of us continue to catch today in North America. If we can only find great blackness in the past, has black greatness expired? Or is it today, as it was then, tapped into by the hand of Satan to unearth brilliance for an evil purpose?

We should never sing an anthem that excludes proactive measures and personal responsibility to gain a place in the sun. The earth belongs to the Blackman and here he is singing and swaying side to side about a middle class status! How quickly we forget.

We would be wise to study the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad who teaches us that our victory is yet won if we haven't accepted the knowledge of ourselves which will free us overnight. And after accepting the knowledge, we must act on the truth that he gives us. He is no black history figure; he is the Messenger of Allah. His is a divine status. Those faces tacked on classroom walls are of this world. He is of the next. The next world is the heaven on earth that is promised to the meek and righteous black nation who was lost but is now found. However, they must show love of God and no love of the devil. We have been loving the devil for over 400 years with no benefits returned. Accept your own and sit in heaven overnight! Then, we will have a history to celebrate.