

Muhammad Universities: ancient great tradition

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The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that a knowledge of ourselves is essential to our well-being and our success. When we take a good look at ourselves we see a great people. When we look at what we've accomplished in the past and realize what we are responsible for accomplishing, now and in the future, we also see a great people.

For many years we have been out of the knowledge of ourselves, but now, thanks to Allah and His Messenger, we are able to educate our children into the knowledge of ourselves through the greatest schools on earth, Muhammad Universities of Islam.

If we glance back into history just a short distance, we can see how all of the white man's so-called great learning centers are all rooted in Islam. Those Muslims who came after Muhammad Ibn Abdullah of 1400 years ago, set the pace for education in Europe and in Asia; but of course, the Black man built and maintained many centers of education long before Muhammad Ibn Abdullah.

In A.H. 457 (1065 A.D.), the famous Nizami University of Baghdad, was founded as one of the first Muslim Universities in recent history. It was founded by Nizama-Al Mulk, the friend of Omar Khayyam, the great scientist and writer of Persia. Shortly thereafter universities sprang up at Nishapur, Damascus, Jerusalem, Cairo and Alexandria, to name just a few places.

One of the greatest of Muslim universities was the Mustansiriyyah which was founded in 1234 A.D. also in Baghdad. This was a very spacious and wealthy school, rich in ornament and finely furnished. It contained four separate law schools and housed 300 students.

The Mustansiriyyah, Timbuctu, Al-Ahzar, Nizami, and the many other Muslim centers of learning must be viewed as an extension of ourselves. A knowledge of these accomplishments is a part of self-knowledge.

They can be used as an impetus for us to improve our own school system. It took those people many centuries to develop, but look at what the Honorable Elijah Muhammad has accomplished in 40 years! He has single-handedly built Black people a university system. How merciful Allah has been to us. We can no longer afford to ignore what He has placed in our midst.