

From
MISE~~ED~~UCATION
To
“EDUCATION”

BY:

DR. NA'IM AKBAR

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DR. NA'IM AKBAR

OTHER WORKS BY THE AUTHOR:

The Community of Self (1976)

Natural Psychology and Human Transformation (1977)

Chains & Images of Psychological Slavery (1984)

DEDICATION

To Imam W. Deen Muhammad who helped us
to understand that education is our
number one priority

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FOREWORD

Life has produced many teachers, many philosophers, many trainers, but very few educators. An educator is one whose duty is not only to impart knowledge to others, but also he has the task of developing the knowledge, skill, and the mind of the student, and to bring out the latent qualities which the student already possesses.

Dr. Na'im Akbar is one such educator. As a "doctor of the mind", he has for the past ten-twelve years been "bringing out of" Bilalian or African-American minds ideas and concepts to help their advancement. As an Associate Professor of Psychology, he has been preparing students in a way that few other instructors have; that is, preparing them to use the resources of their own minds to take control of their own lives.

He does not "train" his students to think with someone else's mind. This is very important because the majority of what we call "educators" are actually "training" their subjects to fit into a pattern of thinking with the mind of the status-quo, the "system". Dr. Akbar realizes that it is long past-due the time that we must think for ourselves, and consequently, he has spent the better part of his life trying to get others to think for themselves.

With his insight on the need for African-American people to come up with new ideas which uniquely speak to their particular situations, he has successfully discarded the cocoon of Western philosophy and now expounds a teaching that is as old as the Pyramids, and as modern as the planetary explorations. The Almighty has blessed him to come into a root knowledge—learned in part as a student of both the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and Imam W. Deen Muhammad, Leader of the American Muslim Mission,

and his studies of Egyptian and ancient world histories—which enables him to see the core of the educational problems that affect human beings, particularly African-Americans as a people.

In this book, "FROM MISEDUCATION TO EDUCATION", Dr. Akbar examines the heart of the problem, **miseducation**. Miseducation is the root of the problems for the masses of the people. If the masses of the people were given correct knowledge from the very beginning, we would not be in the condition that we find ourselves in today.

This book will probably be accepted with high acclaim by the masses, and will probably cause uneasiness for the powers that have been manipulating everyone else. Let us take the knowledge that is contained in these pages and share it with the masses, so that they will begin to think with their own minds, and not the mind of the manipulators, and consequently free themselves from "miseducation".

As the legendary Phoenix bird rises up out of death into a new resurrection, let us, a new people molded by time, fashioned by experiences unparalleled in the annals of history, rise and bring about a new world order based on proper education, truth, justice, and equality.

--Muhammad Armiya Nu'Man
June 1982
Jersey City, N.J.

AN INTRODUCTION TO REAL EDUCATION

It is a tremendous blessing to be a student and I have really been a student for most of my life. They sent me off to preschool when I was about 14 months old. I continued to go to school for about 26 years until I finished all the various levels of degrees that they offer in the formal setting. After so many years of school, I was shocked to suddenly find out that I didn't really know anything. So I began to look for another means of obtaining an education. A couple of years after having obtained what they said was their top degree, I was put in first grade of the school of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. For several years I was blessed to progress under his leadership. Then I was put into the university of universal knowledge under the Mujeddid, the Honorable W. Deen Muhammad.

Through him we have been blessed to be introduced to the Holy Qur'an, the true meaning of the Bible, the true meaning of the Torah, the true meaning of the Vedas, the true meaning of the Pyramid text, and the true meaning of all knowledge that has ever existed since the first spanning and spinning of this universe. So, we now consider ourselves in a real school. We also know that this is a school that we may graduate in, but we will never graduate from, because this is a school of infinite universal education. So the fact is that I can't come to you as a scholar or as a learned man, I can only come to you as a student and to invite you to share with us in a proper kind of education.

A very, very brilliant African American scholar by the name of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, back in 1930, wrote a book that was called "The Miseducation of the Negro." Dr. Woodson was the founder of the Society for The Study of Negro Life and History, and the one who established what was originally referred to as "Negro History Week" which is observed annually during February. Dr. Woodson's

statement in this book was that the main problem facing people of African descent was the fact that we were victims of **miseducation**. He went on to observe that when people are educated to respect the knowledge, the scholarship, the history and the background of everybody except themselves, then those people are miseducated. He said when people went to schools and became scholars in Greek, and scholars in Latin, and scholars in European civilizations, but with total ignorance of their own civilization, those people were **miseducated**. He said, when businessmen become experts in being able to run the business of the broader community, but cannot provide resources for their own community, those people are **miseducated**. Most importantly, he said, when people are incapable of using their money to correct their own lives, they are clearly and certainly **miseducated**. So I thought that there was really no more proper way to begin than to use his lead. It is important to remember that Dr. Woodson's document was written over fifty years ago. Unfortunately, the miseducation has not ceased. In fact, it has increased and we are now more highly miseducated than we ever were before. Why do we say this?

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Miseducation results from being **trained** rather than educated. What is training? Every kind of life, every kind of organism, every kind of process in creation has a natural path to express itself. Even our own physical life began to grow in the womb following a systematic process long before we ever came into consciousness. Even the sperm out of which we were fertilized followed a clearly precise course, moving to its mark, hitting its mark and growing systematically in accord with a pattern that had been genetically determined thousands of years before that particular cell ever came into existence.

So we do not live in a universe of what they call serendipity (which means: "do it as you want to do it,

if you decide to do it"). We live in a universe of tremendous order and orderliness. Everything has a path to follow. In this universe, we find that as we do the things that we are supposed to do, that there is a process whereby we can become educated. Education involves being able to bring out of us a greater expression of that which is already in us. Moving in accord with our pre-determined nature is the nature of education.

The dog that learns how to bury bones and to hunt more effectively for meat to feed himself and his family—that dog is educated. When that dog learns how to stand on its two hind legs and wear a dress and dance to music, that dog is simply trained. He is **miseducated**. He is cute, and you will pay money to see him do it, but he is not an educated dog; he is a trained dog. When a seal will jump into the water and bring up a fish to feed itself and to feed its young, that seal is educated. But when that seal is required to stand up on its hind legs, and balance balls on his nose and clap his fins, then jump in to get a fish that you have provided, that is a trained seal and not an educated seal. The lion that will jump through a firey hoop because on the other side you have a big fat steak for him, is a trained lion, not an educated lion.

We are saying that education is a process by which you are more actively capable of manifesting what you are. When you increasingly manifest what somebody else wants you to be—which may or may not be critical to your survival as a life form—you are actually trained.

So we are in a world where we have all been severely miseducated. We are in a world where we have all been well-trained but not very well educated. We boast of our degrees but our degrees do not equip us to deal more effectively with our environment. Our degrees equip us to act more in accord with the way we have been taught to act. Yet and still, we have Ph.D.'s in excess in our community and they still cannot solve the problems facing

our communities; we have lawyers, J.D.'s, Ph.D's in political science and they cannot solve the organizational problems in our communities. They can go to some other's courthouse, or legislature, or some other body of decision-makers and solve the problems of other people, but they cannot solve our problems. We have MA's, MS's, MBA's, all kinds of educated people, but they are still incapable of stimulating business in our communities. We have teachers who are trained with all the latest technology and techniques of reading and writing instruction, and yet they tell us now that they cannot teach little Johnny how to read. Something is wrong. If we are so educated, why are we so ineffective in solving and dealing with the problems in our communities? This problem is epidemic in African-American communities, but is by no means limited to those communities.

PROFESSIONAL JUNKIES

We have a society with more trained specialists in the mind than any other society in the world, and the highest suicide and insanity rate than anybody else in the world. Here in North America we have more psychiatrists per square inch than any other country in the world; and we have more mentally deranged people per square inch than any other country in the world. Why? Because even though they are part of the majority population, they are unfortunately not effectively educated. They have been well-trained. They can provide for some of their physical needs, but they seem incapable of dealing with their social and psychological problems.

The classical drug addict today is no longer the brother on the block shooting up with a syringe; the classical junky today is the middle class, Caucasian housewife popping pills that she got from her doctor who is a bigger pill-popper than she is. That is the classical junky. Despite the milder

sounding euphemisms of "drug abusers" and "barbiturate abusers", they are still junkies. Recently, we had the embarrassing situation of a junky in the White House. The First Lady in question was almost elevated into martyrdom, but she was the same junky as inhabits the streets of Harlem or other parts of Washington, D.C. They are all junkies, and maybe the sooner we realize their similarity, the closer we will be to resolving the problem in this society.

All of this means that something is seriously wrong when we have all these mind specialists and the mental problems of the society cannot be resolved. One frightening reality is that one of the highest suicide rates among professionals is among psychiatrists. The ultimate irony is the mind expert who cannot control his own mind. They tell me that Sigmund Freud, the father of Western psychology, could not stop smoking twenty cigars a day, even when his jaw was being devoured from jaw cancer. He kept puffing away on cigars for the last 14 years of his life, while cancer devoured his life. Now, the world follows his direction as being the authority on studies of the mind. Something is wrong with this society. He was also an expert on the use of cocaine. Yes, another junky! We are taught to be impressed by his greatness. He was a smart man, but he was also high on dope.

PROPER EDUCATION

What is proper education? Proper education is the way by which we can more effectively be ourselves. The late Elijah Muhammad used to say that that kind of knowledge, that kind of education, was "knowledge of self." When you begin to pursue this phrase, you are able to find out that it is the same thing that the Prophet Jesus meant when he said, "The Kingdom of God is within you." "Know Thyself" was written over the door of the temples of learning and study in Ancient Egypt. This phrase goes back over 10,000 years ago, written in hieroglyphics. The

young initiates into wisdom were taught: "Know thyself" the key to wisdom. The Greeks went into Egypt, they saw it, they copied the same information and started saying, "Know thyself." All of the great powers of the world have said to the seekers of knowledge, that the source of real knowledge for the human being is knowledge of himself.

Of course that makes sense. When you look at everything moving in the universe, it all moves in accord with its own pattern. Unfortunately for us (and fortunately too, for reasons we will get to below), the pattern that exists for the other things in creation, is a predetermined pattern. So the dog barks because the dog has an instinct to bark. The dog buries his bones because the dog has an instinct to bury his bones. The male dog follows a female dog in heat, because he has an instinct to smell the fact that she is receptive for bringing forth young, so he instinctively follows the female in heat. The lion is able to look furious, to growl, and to tear apart enemies because that is the nature of lion's instinct. So all of these animals are able to live their most effective lives when they are living in accord with their instinctual patterns. There was a movie called "Born Free" about a lion that was raised in captivity, out of its own nature. This lion was raised in an environment that was unnatural for him. When he was put back into his natural environment, the lion was initially incapable of surviving because he had lost contact with his instinctual makeup.

Now, the human being is a blessed creature because he is not restricted by instinct. The way that the human being is able to find out what he has to do, is by learning, by the development of consciousness, by beginning to study himself, study all the rest of creation, study his history as a human being, and in the process, discover the patterns which dignify and make him what he is. That is what education is supposed to do. It is supposed to provide the human being with the knowledge about himself, so that he can be what he is supposed to be.

How do we know ourselves? We need to know ourselves in three basic ways. We need to know ourselves as human beings; we need to know ourselves as tribes, and we need to know ourselves as spiritual beings. If we know ourselves in all three of these dimensions, then we are able to live more effectively the lives that we are supposed to live, and become more productive and aware human beings. In other words, when we are taught these things, then we become truly educated rather than miseducated.

THE NATURE OF THE HUMAN BEING

What is the nature of the human being? The first thing that we must begin to teach ourselves is that we are in fact **rational beings**. You begin to tell the human being, "look, man, you are in fact a man." What is a man? The man is a mind. What is a mind? A mind is the ability for rational/moral decision-making. The ability to use what is inside to do what needs to be done. Such teaching would be radical in this society? Don't you know that it would be revolutionary to start teaching our children very early, "Look, child, what you are is your will power. What you are is your brain power. Don't you know, child, that you are like a piece of clay that is able to be impressed by the environment, and that environment shapes you and molds you and makes you become what you are? Don't you know that you have been invested with the highest intellectual power of any animal in all creation?" Don't you know, human being, that you were made to be the master of this planet, and that the Creator has endowed you with the ability to know as no other animal is capable of knowing?"

Why would this be so revolutionary? Because we live in a strange, insane society where people are taught from the cradle to the grave that their minds are incidental, unimportant, or non-existent. We are taught that what we really are is flesh—"When you get big like Muhammad Ali, you'll be a man." "When you are able to have a big

bust, a big behind, you can be a real woman." "When you are able to develop your sexual powers, you can be respected as a man." That is this society's definition of real human power. The magazines sell to you based on their definition of what you are. They tell you to smoke these cigarettes because this will bring you into status and sexual power, and the sexual power will make you into a man or a woman. They tell you to drink this liquor because this liquor will be able to make you into a real person. People then try to hold their cocktail glasses like they have seen on the advertisements so that they can look like the experts.

The Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) report on smoking recently showed that the largest increase in cigarette smoking over the last ten years has been among African-American women, and they do not know why. I know why. It is because African-American women have been most systematically attacked in their consciousness of who they really are, and they are trying to be like the characters on "Search for Tomorrow", "As The World Turns", "Soap" and the rest of that madness. Every time they look, Jane has a cigarette and so they try to be like Jane on "Search for Tomorrow." She is always puffing on a cigarette somewhere. This becomes the definition of her womanhood, that is the definition of her power as a woman.

The society has given us these gross misdefinitions of what it means to be a human being. They tell us, "Let yourself go, be free." That means take off all of your clothes, and run around the street like a lunatic. It might mean, "run off someplace and spend more money than you have for the weekend; have a spending spree, take your Visa card, run to the stores and spend the next five years paying back six times more than you used in interest rates." That is what they call freedom!

FALSE DEFINITIONS

The definitions of love, the definition of caring, all of these things have taken on the form of some kind of strange materialism, a kind of materialism that makes people incapable of knowing who they really are, but steadily trying to be something other than themselves. We ask our children, "What grade did you get?" Not, "What did you learn", not, "What do you understand?", but, "What grade did you get?" "You got a B, how many people got an A?" You're not concerned with the expansion of his mind, you're concerned about how many people are on top of him because that becomes the definition of your status—not the child's status. You really don't care what he knows, you simply want him to be recognized among the outstanding students so people can say, "that's Mrs. So and So's son..."

We don't care because we no longer know who we are. We use our husbands for status symbols: his job, where he can buy a house, what car he can afford, etc. All of these are the definitions of why you married him. We marry women because we use the women for status symbols. Not because we like them. "She was a fox, you should have seen her twenty years ago, she was the finest thing in town, everybody wanted her." then you say to yourself, "Look at her now". We are just like teenagers, start dating people, going out with people, spending time with them—not because of what they can offer as a human being, but because of what others will say when they see you with this "foxy mamma".

This becomes the definition of why you got together. So she proceeds to degrade and undignify herself by trying to look more sexy than the latest cover girl. You slavishly then try to switch your behavior every time *Essence* changes

its definition of what African-American womanhood is this month. They do not even know what it is going to be next month. They go from one wardrobe to the other, and you switch in and out depending on which wardrobe they have designed this week. Why? Because this is your definition of what your femininity is. I recently saw a lady who was wearing red eyeshadow! I had never seen anybody with red eyeshadow. When she blinked her eyes, I thought that she had a strange disease! She was convinced that she was the finest thing around. Maybelline or somebody had decided that the other eyeshadow that made her look shadowy wasn't enough. So they decided to red them up, blue them up, purple them up, green them up! And I understand now that you can even get sparkles and as you bat your eyes they reflect like stars and lights flashing! It's strange.

Why do people buy all that crazy stuff? Because that is their definition of human beings. That is their definition of who they are. That is their definition of their feminine or masculine powers. Why do brothers buy cars they can't afford? Why go pay \$20,000 for a sportscar not big enough for you and one of your children to get into? Only because "that's the baddest thing out this year." Why do it? Because we are trying to define ourselves in a society that has lost contact with the true definition of a human being.

TRUE DEFINITION

The real definition of the human being has to do with our ability to develop our inner life. The Holy Qur'an tells us this. The Bible tells us this. Even the more enlightened psychologists tell us this! Every wise prophet of God taught this. Jesus didn't say develop your body, he said develop the kingdom of God which is inside of you. The Christians do not have an excuse, they were told to develop their inner life just like Muslims were told. People often mock the Muslims: "I heard y'all pray five times a day. Child, that's too much praying for me!"

Why? You eat twenty times a day. Every time I see you, you are shooting some more sugar, coca cola, candy bar here fast-food poison there. You are constantly popping it down all the time. You pray to your body all day. Some of you get up in the night half asleep, fall into the refrigerator. If somebody would awaken you, you'd have a trauma right there, not even knowing where you were, but being so conditioned to eat all the time you have to eat all night too. But, it is considered funny to take a couple of minutes throughout the day to put your mind back on the right course, and to say to yourself that there is something bigger than I am, that my mind is moving, evolving into bigger expanses; to say that there is a rulership and an authority over my life that is bigger than this job, bigger than these children, bigger than this family, bigger than these bills, bigger than this cold weather, bigger than these hardships. There is something that this life is moving towards that somehow stands as superior over this life, as the sun stands superior over this earth. What is wrong with doing that?

Can you do that too much? Five times is not enough. We need to pray fifty times a day in this crazy society. With music on the radio twenty-four hours a day telling you to get into the funk groove, one nation under the groove, one nation invaded by the funkadelics, and all kinds of other strange things inviting you to be a "freaky-deek monster for a week." Strange society, for the first time in history people are boasting and giving prizes for the biggest freak of the year. A freak contest! A few days ago, people would have been horrified, they would kill you if you called them a freak. Now, they become very upset if they do not win the prize for being the "freak of the week."

This is the insanity that has come about in a society that has reduced the human being to being nothing more than physical protoplasm. Reduced the human being to being no more than his accumulation of goods, accumulation

of paper wall houses that you pay too much for. A society that makes us accumulate junk after junk after junk, far beyond our needs; a society that keeps us in debt by constantly changing the fashions so we can chase the fashions down. Don't you know there are people in this world who have been wearing the same fashions for about 8,000 years and never changed the style. They are some of the happiest people in the world today. They are some of the most dignified women in the world today because they have been able to develop the inner life while keeping the outer life clean and dignified. Don't you know how much more we would have as a community if we spent one-tenth as much as we spend on records, liquor, cosmetics and clothes? Don't you know that we spend more on those four items than most governments in Africa spend on their entire domestic budget? Don't you know that African-Americans throw away more money on liquor, records and cosmetics than some of the largest governments in Africa had in their national budgets last year? I will say that again: African-Americans, Bilalians, we, the poor folks, the ones who are always crying unemployment, give us some more of this, we don't have that—We spend more money on Michael Jackson's records, or Rick James' records, more money on Maybellines' eyelashes, more money on liquor—the most expensive kinds—than any African people in the world. That is ridiculous. We should hang our heads in shame.

We are so miseducated that we use our own wealth and turn it back over to the plantation owner. There was a special program on "60 Minutes" not long ago talking about the sugar plantations in Louisiana. I thought that it was really funny because I recognized that all of us are on sugar plantations. We all work to do nothing but turn our resources back over to the company store. We are not able to use our own resources to develop our communities because we are too busy turning it back over as fast as we make it — not over to ourselves, but back to the people we got it from. So our communities

continue to go down, and down, and down. They fall apart like the city of Newark where the suburban communities that run the department stores, and the record stores, and the liquor stores, are getting fatter and fatter, and we are getting poorer and poorer. We make that much, we make more, but we also throw away more than any other people. Why? Because we have not been educated in developing the true qualities of the human being. We do not develop the rational sense, we do not develop the mind, we do not teach our children that their real strength is in their mental power. We do not teach ourselves and we are not even aware that the upper hand of the human being's strength is in his conscience, his moral power.

SUPERIORITY OF THE HUMAN BEING

The human being is uniquely equipped with rational power on the one hand, moral power on the other. This makes us superior to any other creature on the earth. If we knew ourselves this way, we would be capable of conquering and dealing with almost any problem that we confront. We believe that we are incapable of dealing with problems. We feel that we are really the weakest creature, when we are actually the strongest creatures. The mind experts and the religious experts should be telling us: "Don't you know you have a will power. Look, use your moral strength." Moral strength is a force that operates within us, that is capable of reversing the destructive influences that come into our lives. We do not have to take dope to get high, we can take Truth and get high. We do not need to take another cigarette to stop smoking. Don't you know that they sell cigarettes to stop people from smoking, and people buy them. Don't you know that they sell dope to get people off of dope. They wanted to get people off of morphine so they started shooting them up with heroin to get them off of morphine. Then they started shooting people up with methadone to get them off of heroin. Now, after a while, they are going

to come up with something to shoot them up with to get them off of the methadone. It is a society that goes from one drug to the other drug, because we are deficient in the development of our will power and in terms of our moral power. We believe that losing self control is a mark of mental strength. We actually think that it is psychologically healthy to go out and act like a fool for three or four hours. We think it is psychologically healthy to go out and have an orgy somewhere, because that is supposed to be sexually liberated. Freud told us that! The psychologist tells us that! "Mademoiselle," "Essence," "Playboy," tell us that. It tells you that the more uninhibited you are—in other words, the more you conduct yourself or your life as a dog conducts his life—that means that you are more psychologically healthy. We have people who believe that they are incapable of controlling their sexual lives. The insanity is that somehow we have lost so much control of our lives, that we do not even enforce for ourselves those things that cultivate healthy families and healthy lives in our environment. This is the insanity this world has produced for us because we have lost knowledge of ourselves as human beings.

We need to understand the growth of the self, the knowledge of the self. We need to know who we are. Once we understand the rational and the moral ability that lives within us and understand that the Creator endowed us with the ability for mastery, then we will not submit to anything in this earth. The only submission that we are supposed to do is submit to God, the Author of the rules that guide your existence. You don't have to submit to pain, you do not have to submit to appetite, you do not have to submit to desire, you do not have to submit to anything unless you choose to submit to those things. There is no such thing as "I couldn't help myself." You can always help yourself! You chose not to help yourself. The reason that you chose not to help yourself is that someone has miseducated you and told you that your greater power is in your sexual power, your greater power

is in your appetite. You may be as big as a house and the doctor says, "Stop eating so much, fool." But you "can't" stop shovelling down the calories: "I can't help myself." Yes you can! It is because you have been mis-educated, you do not understand how to help yourself control yourself.

TRIBAL KNOWLEDGE

Once we know ourselves as individuals, then we have to know ourselves as a tribe. What is a tribe? A tribe is a community. Tribe has a more basic meaning which identifies the relationship that exists among people who have a shared social environment, a shared history. The tribe is that kind of spiritual/mental relationship that ties people together based on their shared experiences and environment.

Why do we need knowledge of ourselves as a tribe? Because knowledge of ourself as a tribe is what gives us the strength to cultivate what we are as an individual. Knowledge of ourself as a tribe is what gives us the power to move against oppositional forces that are seeking to destroy us individually and collectively. Knowledge of ourself as a tribe is that superpower that makes people willing to stand up, go to war and to die to protect their families, protect their institutions, protect their culture, protect what they stand for as a people. The knowledge of ourself as a tribe is what gives us the power to resist the shackles of slavery. But when you do not know who you are as a tribe, you say, "Come and get me, I'm ready to go." It does not matter what the forces are, you are ready to give yourself to them.

There are some crazy people in Virginia who brag about being descendants of the slaves of Thomas Jefferson. They do not realize that a slave is a slave, and that the human being should be a slave to no other man. They actually are proud to be the former slaves of some racist

slavemaster. They dignify themselves in that they have pictures on their walls to show the records where they were sold by Thomas Jefferson to somebody else to work on somebody else's tobacco plantation. They are stupid! But they are stupid because they are miseducated. They are no more stupid than you are when you walk around boasting about how much Greek blood you have, but you are ashamed of your African blood. They are no more stupid than we are when we boast about how much we know about European civilization, but how little we know about African civilization. That is called **miseducation** too. Why? Because what you know about yourself as a tribe is the source of your strength to be able to correct the conditions that confront you as a people. Why did they systematically destroy our knowledge of ourselves as a tribe when we were made slaves in this country? Why did they do it? Because the maker of slaves knew that the best way to make people into slaves was to rob them effectively of the knowledge of themselves.

They don't tell you Plato came down from out of Southern Europe with a completely fogged and darkened mind, and he was overwhelmed by the light of ancient Egypt; they took him to the mystery schools and taught him advanced philosophy, cosmology, theology, epistemology, and all the other ologies that characterize western philosophy. Go check it out in the books they don't assign you to read. Go and read John G. Jackson, Goerge G. M. James, Chancellor Williams, Gerald Massey, Yosef ben Jochannon, and the works of J.A. Rogers. Go find out about this lie about Herodotus being the father of history. He is not the father, he is the step-son of history because he was adopted in Egypt, and taught by African scholars.

Why don't we know these things? We do not know these things because it would be dangerous if we knew them. Why? Because we would start a revolution? Yes, a mental revolution. Not to get in the streets and burn,

we would get in the streets and stand up dignified. We would say, "I don't want my child destroyed. I want my child **educated**, not miseducated." We would be pouring out funds into independent schools like the Jews do, like the Catholics do, like everybody does who has a sense of their own survival.

We are the only people who break our necks trying to get into Brandeis, Holy Cross, Notre Dame, even Brigham Young, and any other schools committed to somebody else's tribal identity. We will give all our funds to build them up, but none of our funds to build our own institutions, to grow our own schools, to educate our own people. Yes, the Jews send their children to public schools, but they pick them up at 2:30 and take them to the Synagogue and teach them til sunset. They teach them the knowledge of Jewish history! The Catholics, they don't even send them to public schools. They send them to Catholic schools and they Catholicize them all day, every day, year-in, year-out, stopping in the middle of the day going to have mass, hang crosses all over the classrooms, making them pray before and after the class for the Pope and the growth of Catholicism.

Everybody teaches their tribal identity. Don't worry about being afraid of your own identity. Someone was telling me recently that it is very strange that we are surprised that the majority population of Europeans in this society have such a strong opposition to living next to an African-American. Then another friend of mine said that he did not find it so strange. If you go to any community in this country, you will find that the Germans live with the Germans, the Irish live with the Irish, the Poles live with the Poles, the Jews live with the Jews; and as soon as another ethnic group starts moving in, they start moving out. So you know if they can not live with European next door neighbors, what makes you think they want to live with you? That is really intelligent because people want to preserve their identity as a

tribe. Does that mean you have to hate other people? No. This is the stupidity of this society. That is the stupidity of people who believe the difference always means superior/inferior. Difference simply means a more beautiful color to add to the bouquet.

"Difference" only means another way that we can learn about other dimensions of ourselves. The Holy Qur'an says, "We made you of different tribes so that you may know each other, not despise each other." So the diversity of the human makeup is not an avenue for division. It is an avenue for cohesion. It is an avenue by which we can learn from the wide dimensions of the human makeup that any single community is capable of producing on its own. So we should preserve our integrity as a tribe so that we can make our contribution to the wider and broader society.

But we have become ashamed of our tribal contribution. We believed that we were nothing but savages running behind Tarzan in the jungle. We believed that we had done nothing to contribute to society until we got here to the Western world. I have got news for you. You have got to know that your history is longer than any recorded history in this cycle. They tell us about Atlantis and Mu and other societies that lived long before this cycle of history, but in this cycle of history you can't talk about it unless you talk about the African continent, and that is where you came from. That is where your child needs to know he came from. Your child can love Shakespeare, but let him also love Nefertitti. Let them love Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, but let them also love King Tutankhamen, a Black king; let them love Akhenaton, a Black King; let them love Mansa Musa, a Black king. Let him love his own heritage first, and then he can really love George Washington—he can say what a nice youngster he was. You cannot love anybody else until you love yourself.

EFFECTS OF SLAVERY

Brothers and sisters, we have to understand the history that we have. Not only the long history, but we need to understand the more immediate history. We need to understand that slavery presented some serious problems. We are still dealing with some of those problems. Any kind of trauma (psychic trauma, social trauma, cultural trauma) plagues people for generations to come.

The experience of slavery in this country was like no other experience in the history of modern man. I do not care what the Jews say about the Holocaust, we caught more hell than they did. They went to the crematoriums proud to be Jews; they went to the crematoriums with dignity because they knew their suffering had some spiritual significance, because they knew who they were when they went to the pits. When we went to the fields in the latter years of slavery, we did not know who we were. When we went to Harvard, Columbia and Rutgers Universities, we did not know who we were. We went there as wandering idiots ready to be impressed upon by any influence that came in. We were much worse than the Jews in the crematoriums. We would have been better off buried if we had known who we were as we were buried. Instead, we were kept alive and destroyed mentally, and destroying us mentally was worse than destroying us all physically.

Do not believe for a minute that our suffering was done in vain. We paid a price for it. We still have troubles in our families, in male-female relationships, many things we still do because of slavery.* There was, however, a great accomplishment that came out of slavery. Why

*We call the reader's attention to another publication by the writer entitled, Chains and Images of Psychological Slavery.

do you think it is that every time you sit down with Jews they start telling you about their suffering? Have you ever noticed that? In almost any kind of setting, sooner or later the Jews are either going to mention Germany or Egypt. They will tell you about how they have been persecuted every place they have been. They will tell you about how the Germans hated them, how they are persecuted in Jerusalem today, how the Arabs hated them. They tell you all about those things. Why? Because they understand that people are molded by experience; they understand that suffering does not destroy, suffering can revive if you are able to survive it. The people who survived the smallpox epidemics came out immuned to smallpox. Those people who survived it have the resistance inside to stand up against any kind of destructive influence.

Don't you know that the mind is more powerful than the body? The body is only a poem talking about the mind. Don't you understand that the symbolism laid down in the physical experience is no more than a key to the infinite pathways that open up into the horizons of mental and spiritual expansion? Don't you know that what is true of body is only a small allegory of the true power of the mind. Don't you know that if a mind can endure, it has to be immune to something?

What did the mind endure? The mind of the African endured dehumanization. Slavery was geared towards the destruction of the human spirit. Slavery was intended to destroy us rationally. We were not supposed to come out of slavery as human beings! We were supposed to come out of slavery as dogs, and cats, and horses, and jackasses, and cattle. That is what was intended. The raping of our mothers before our eyes, the taking of our women before our eyes, the killings, the lynchings, the castration of men before our eyes, the beatings, the separation of children from their mothers—all of these cruelties were not intended to just keep us slaves, they were intended to destroy the human spirit in the African man.

Don't you know what happened? We survived those inhuman conditions! We came out more powerful human beings than ever before. We came out with greater dignity than ever before. That same Black mother who stood there and watched her son hanging in that tree, too proud to cry out, with the strong inner strength that permitted her to fold her arms and just stand there rocking and shaking and saying: "Ain't this somethin'. Well, you may have me today, but somehow the very pain I feel in my blood will be passed on to generations yet unborn." And when the forces of oppression begin to move against the human being again, there will be something in that child's genetic makeup that will make him stand up and say, "Hell no, I won't go! I won't fall down in my dignity. I won't fall down. I'm going to stand no matter what!"

Sometimes you may see us down so low, you'll see brothers sometimes on the block, they are so low down drunk, poor, cold, everything—all the forces of unemployment, all of the social forces imaginable have been working on that brother, but despite all of those destructive forces, you can see that brother sometimes take his little dirty coat, straighten it out, brush himself off, and walk on. He walks on refusing to lose his dignity. Have you ever seen Black mothers who have a house full of children, still too proud to beg? They will feed those children through some means, but they will not beg; she won't go with her hand held out. She will take it if you give it to her, but she will not go on her knees and beg. Why? Three hundred and sixty years of dehumanizing forces have given her too much dignity as a human being to bow down as a dog and say, "I'll do anything if you feed me." That is why I know that we can stand anything. We have great strength because we endured slavery.

If people that can survive enmasse what we have survived, i.e. severed from our homelands, the Middle Passage, the death of our families, the death of our children, the kinds of persecution, the hardships that we have endured

in this country for almost 400 years, it is rather unbelievable that we are going to go to the Guyana jungle (Jonestown) and because some lunatic says, "take your life," we are going to kill ourselves? No way! The knowledge of tribe tells me that this is highly improbable. The knowledge of ourselves as a tribe, the knowledge of our history, the knowledge of our endurance, the knowledge of our perseverance, the knowledge of inner-strength that has been passed down to us, tells us and tells me that, that is impossible.

Now, I was not there, I do not know what happened. I do not believe what they told me happened. If we have endured what others have not endured, then that means that we are uniquely qualified to show others how to do what they cannot do today. That means that we have already endured the most dehumanizing processes that man is capable of enduring. Slavery was a well strategized tactic to destroy the basic human makeup. That plan that was used on the slaves is now a world-wide plan. It is now the plan that is used on t.v., it is now the plan that they are sending to other countries to encourage other countries to lose respect for their families, to lose respect for themselves, to be dehumanized into sexual freedom and stud-ism and breedership, to lose the dignity of a family life. That is the same mentality that is threatening this society now. These are the forces that are moving against the world today.

Don't you understand that we are uniquely qualified to stand up and say to the world, "You don't have to bow down to that"? Don't you know—believe it or not—that we have within us the inner strength to resist the most dehumanizing forces no matter what form they may come in. We are the ones who can stand up now and give to the world moral leadership. We can say that our history shows us to be uniquely qualified to resist the forces of oppression, destruction, and those things that destroy the human mind. We have in our makeup the solution

to today's problems. We have a spiritual mission that will let us stand up in a world that is being destroyed morally and say: "Look, you don't have to fall down under that oppression; you don't have to fall down under those influences; you don't have to give up God for Santa Claus." We have a strange society that will not let the children pray to God, but they let them make Santa Clauses; they will to let you pray to God but they let you make Easter bunnies (fertility symbols). They will not let you pray to God in the beginning of the morning, but they will let you celebrate all kinds of other pagan activities. They will let your mind be destroyed, but they will not let your mind be cultivated. Say, "No" to those influences. We are the ones who can do that.

EDUCATIONAL REALITY

What must we do to the educational system? We must demand that it produce reality. We must begin to produce our own models of education. In those models of education we will show the power of reality as a means of developing and cultivating the minds of human beings. We will speak to the strength in human beings. We will say to the child even in his youngest years: "I know you can do it." Not, "I think you can do it." We must learn to speak to our children's strength and not to their weakness. We speak to our children's weakness when we say, "Oh, let me get this out of your way, you are going to break it." You are speaking to the child's weakness when you are saying, "Child, you can't control yourself, so let me put this out of your reach." Say to that child, "Yes, you can control yourself." The human being can control himself.

Don't say you are incapable of doing anything with your children. Your problem is that you do not control your own habits so you cannot help your children control their habits. You are convinced you are weak so you speak

to their weakness. Speak to their strength! Speak to their rational strength. Give them logic. Give them understanding. Speak to their sentiment and emotion, speak to their moral strength. Say, "You can control yourself. I know you can do it. It may be a little hard now, but you can do it. You might forget once and a while and go and touch something; that's all right, you can do it." Do not say, "that's cute" when your child breaks something that he should not break. Do not think it is cute that the first word a child learns is how to say, "damn." Do you know that there are parents who think that is cute these days: "Oh, child, he just started talking and he curses like a little sailor," they say.

The power of strength is when you teach strength to the human being. This is what the educational system needs to do. We need to make the educational system speak to our strength and the strength of our children. They need to speak to the rational strength in our children. Those schools need to begin to provide service for our communities. We need to be actively involved in the educational process. We need to build an "educational" system rather than a "miseducational" system. Why? Because if you build a mind of the human being, that is the greatest monument you can put on the earth. If you put the monument of a well-formed, well-refined, a developing and evolving mind on earth, you will build something to testify to the power of the human being, something greater than the Pyramids themselves, that have stood through thousands of years to attest to the rational strength of generations which preceded them. If we build this in society, a moral mind, a rational mind that is able to bring the world out of its sinking human dignity, we will build a mind that is stronger than the Pyramids and more powerful than Mt. Kilimanjaro.

B I O G R A P H Y

Na'im Akbar is a celebrated lecturer, author, scholar, teacher, and theoretician who travels many thousands of miles each year to meet the spiralling demands for his combined talents. He has been lauded throughout the continental United States, the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe for his African-American oriented, humanistic and thoroughly wholistic approach to human development.

Dr. Akbar is currently in residence at Florida State University as a Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Psychology and the Black Studies Program. He formerly served as Associate Professor of Psychology at Morehouse College in Atlanta, and also Associate Professor of Psychology at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia. For two years, Dr. Akbar served as Director of the Office of Human Development for the (currently called) American Muslim Mission. In this position, he has also served as the aide to Imam W. Deen Muhammad, leader of this influential religious and social movement.

Dr. Akbar has worked closely with the Association of Black Psychologists almost since its inception, and has served on its Board of Directors for several terms. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the National Black Child Development Institute and numerous other professional and civic organizations. He is currently the Associate Editor of the Journal of Black Psychology and in 1980 was awarded the Association of Black Psychologists' highest award for its members in recognition of his outstanding scholarship and research in African Psychology. He was listed in the 1980-81 edition of Who's Who in Black America.

Dr. Na'im Akbar, in 1984, has appeared on several national television programs, including Tony Brown's Journal, and he is currently a weekly columnist in the American Muslim Journal.

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He has done extensive and creative writing in the area of Psychology of African-Americans and his ideas have been seminal in generating some of the most progressive and creative thought in this field over the last 10-15 years. Dr. Akbar's credentials alone have not brought his keen sense of awareness and understanding of human nature to the forefront; it has been his willingness and desire to search beyond the theory of the classroom into the broader light of universal Truths and social reality.

Not only is Dr. Akbar academically qualified, but he has also involved himself fully into the basic unit of any society, that is the family. Dr. Akbar is married to a supportive and creative wife, Renee, and is the father of three lovely children.

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