

# Minister John Muhammad

**Passed away May 3, 2005 at the age of 95**



April 17, 1910 -- May 3, 2005

# Minister John Muhammad's History in his own words

Minister John Muhammad's History in His Own Words:

Brothers and Sisters, I am Supreme Minister John Muhammad, the Blood and Spiritual Brother of The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, The Messenger of Allah (May The Peace and Blessing of Allah Be Upon Him).

I will now make myself known to All in the following:

## **A Touch of My History in THE NATION OF ISLAM.**

I am the eighth (8th) son and the thirteenth (13th) or as you might say, the baby of thirteen (13) children of Messenger Elijah Muhammad's parents. It was five (5) girls, that made thirteen (13) children. I was born in Cordele, Georgia.

In 1923, I came to Detroit with my mother, and grandmothers and two brothers. I was a small boy.

In 1924 I joined the Baptist Church. Late in 1931 I heard Islam as taught by Master Fard Muhammad, and by 1932 the whole family had become Muslims under the guidance of Master Fard Muhammad and Messenger Elijah Muhammad (P.B.U.H.).

My First Post or Duty was as a helper at the door and an usher. I became a Teacher in the University of Islam as taught by Master Fard Muhammad. Late in 1932, Master Fard Muhammad gave me the Authority of Acting Principal of Temple No. 1, Michigan, University of Islam. I was Assistant Secretary and Secretary. At this time there was only one Temple of Islam in this Wilderness of North America for the so-called Negro.

Early in 1933, I was permitted to the rostrum to ask the members to give charity and Teach what I had learned in Islam. I taught the Meaning of Our FLAG OF ISLAM, given to us by Master Fard Muhammad, I taught it as I had learned. I served in every position that is known in The Nation of Islam, except becoming God and The Messenger of Allah; I was, for one day, Everything.

In 1933 - 1934, I was Treasurer, appointed by The Honorable Elijah Muhammad. I had visited other meeting places before visiting at 3408 Hasting Street, which was the birth place of Master Fard in the Teaching of Islam to the (So-Called Negro) Black Americans. I visited in Chicago, Temple #2, alone while The Messenger was setting it up.

I made a Promise to Both Master Fard Muhammad and Messenger Elijah Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) as they taught me to, never ever fail to carry out the work that I had been taught by them in The Nation of Islam. Therefore, today I continue that which was taught. According to this teaching it has enough Wisdom and Understanding of Knowledge in it, to last 9,980 years before it expires.

I have never disobeyed any of those in authority over me in this Nation of Islam set up by Master Fard



Muhammad, Whom Messenger Elijah Muhammad declared to the World was ALLAH IN PERSON WHO visited North America.

I have always taken a position or Post in The Nation of Islam, wherever it was vacant, and was justified by those in authority over me. Master Fard Muhammad and the Captains and was never turned down. I was loved By All.

Today, I am still on my Post. My promise was in word and on paper with ink as, "MY WORD IS MY BOND AND MY BOND IS MY LIFE, AND I WILL GIVE MY LIFE BEFORE MY WORD SHALL FAIL," AND THIS STANDS TODAY, FIGURE FOR FIGURE.

PLEASE, ASK ME ABOUT MYSELF IN THIS POST BEFORE ASKING OTHERS, THEY MAY NOT BE OLD ENOUGH. I DID TALK WITH GOD, IN THE PERSON OF MASTER FARD MUHAMMAD, FACE TO FACE.

### **THE OBITUARY**

**(Reprinted verb atim from the obituary given at the funeral)**

### **The Honorable Supreme Minister John Muhammad**

The Honorable John Muhammad, was born Herbert Poole, on the day of April 17, 1910, to the late William and Marie Poole in Cordele Georgia. He was the youngest of 13 children. The Honorable John Muhammad came to Detroit, Michigan in 1923, where he attended several public schools in Detroit. Minister Muhammad became a member of the Nation of Islam under the leadership of Mr. W.D. Fard Muhammad and his brother the late Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Mr. W.D. Fard gave his parents the name Muhammad, this became the family name for of its members of the family. His birth name Herbert Poole was changed to John Muhammad.

He was the first assistant principal of the University of Islam where he taught the beginners class. He was the Temple Secretary and Treasurer. He was also an employee of Chrysler Motor Company, which was formerly named Briggs.

In 1955, he was put in jail along with other pioneers for 10 days, he was later sentenced to 30 days which he servered on the weekends for refusing to take four of his school age children (Elijah, Freeda, La-weeda, and Janet) out of the University of Islam and put them in public schools. For this tey would take four of his children an put them into foster homes for a little more than 30 days. In the later 70's, the Honorable John Muhammad began to open his own temples and schools through out Highland Park, and Detroit MI., where he continued to spread the teachings of the Nation of Islam.

The Honorable John Muhammad was truly a man of honor, and a man of his word. He was one to stand first, fast and strong for what he believed in. He faced racism, prejudice, and never once did he back down from his beliefs. As a child in Macon Georgia, he had seen with his own eyes a young man whom had been lynched in the south. He knew then that one day he would join his older brother in the fight for the rights of African Americans. John Muhammad was truly a man filled with loyalty, pursuance, and longevity. Because of his perserverance we have our own schools, some of which are the Sister Clara Muhammad Schools. He made a promise to W.D. Fard Muhammad and his brother the late Honorable Elijah Muhammad that he would continue his teachings for the rest of his life...and so he did. John Muhammad use to say

**"My Word is My Bond and My Bond is My Life and I Will Give My Life Before My**

## Word Shall Fail"



Minister John Muhammad & Wfme Burnsteen



Minister John Muhammad & Wife, Sister Burnsteen Muhammad, Wallace (Warith) D. Mohammed in 2000

During his life he received many awards for his dedication and commitment in improving the quality of life for African American people. Awards such as, A Special Tribute Award in 1995, and 1998. He received The Sprit of Detroit Award, in 1996. In 1998, the Mayor of Highland Park Michigan gave him an award for his service in improving the quality of life of African Americans.

John Muhammad married Burnsteen Sharrieff Muhammad in 1935. This union produced 14 children, 34 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. His wife Burnsteen, and four of his children (Farrad, Wali, Lovella, Elijah) has preceded him in death. He leaves a treasure of memories and is celebrated by his children Gloria and son-in-law Robert, Furgan and Daughter-in-law Sharon, Freeda and son-in-law Carl, La-Weeda and son-in-law Casey, John Jr., Abdul, Nur, Janet, Rabb, and Medina. His Extended family members Frank Jones, The Mim's Family, and Cathy Jones. A host of friends, and followers of the Nation of Islam who lives he touched.



Top Row Captain Roscoe Muhammad Jr., (nephew) Rabb (son), Nur (son), Abdullah (son), Furgan (son), Farrad (son). Second Row. George, Medina (daughter), Jaunita , Lorain, Gerturde Bogans, Gloria (daughter), Freedah (daughter), Captain Roscoe Muhammad Sr.(nephew) Third Row. Burnsteen (wife), Minister John Muhammad, Emma Muhammad (Sister), Johnnie Muhammad (Brother), Ethel Muhammad (Sister-in-law) Bottom Row. Martez (Grandson) Samirah (Granddaughter), Rasemah (Granddaughter), Nienna (Granddaughter)

## Interment

Grand Lawn Cemetery

23504 Grand River Avenue

Detroit



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