Muslim Slaves, Malcolm X & Modern Black Muslims

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center’s Islamic Study Group

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Abdul-Rahman Ibrahim Ibn Sori
A Prince Among Slaves

- 1762: Born in Timbo, West Africa, (present day Guinea)
- 1779: At 17 he entered the army and quickly rose to the rank of commander. 1788: Captured at age 26 and sold as a slave.
- 1794: Abdul-Rahman married Isabella, another slave of Foster’s, and eventually fathered a large family: five sons and four daughters
- Excellence in Cotton Growth
Abdul-Rahman Ibrahim Ibn Sori

\textit{A Prince Among Slaves}

\begin{itemize}
\item 1826: Abdul-Rahman wrote a letter to his family in Africa and the letter was forwarded to Thomas Buck Reed, the senator of Mississippi and the Moroccan Embassy.
\begin{itemize}
\item He went to Monrovia, Liberia with his wife.
\item Abdul-Rahman Ibrahim lived for four months before he contracted a fever and died at the age of 67.
\item He never saw Fouta Djallon or his children again.
\end{itemize}
\item 2008: PBS showed a Spark Media Incorporated & Unity Productions Foundation film directed by Andrea Kalin titled \textit{Prince Among Slaves}, portraying the life of Abdul-Rahman.
\end{itemize}
United State Civil War

Peter (Saleem) Salem
El-Hajj Malik El-Shabaaz

Malcolm X

- 1925: Born in Omaha, NE
- 1941: Moved to Boston
- 1946: Charlestown State Prison
- Nation of Islam
  - 1957: Beating of Johnson Hinton
  - US Civil Rights Movement
- 1964: Pilgrimage to Mecca
- 1965: Assassination
“America needs to understand Islam, because this is the one religion that erases from its society the race problem. Throughout my travels in the Muslim world, I have met, talked to, and even eaten with people who in America would have been considered white, but the white attitude was removed from their minds by the religion of Islam. I have never before seen sincere and true brotherhood practiced by all together, irrespective of their color.”

Malcolm X
Muhammad Ali

*Cassius Clay*

- 1942: Born in Louisville, KY
- 1954: Directed towards boxing by Joe E. Martin
- 1964: Changed name to Muhammad Ali (NIO)
- 1966: Vietnam War
- 1975: Converted to Sunni Islam
Hakeem Olajuwon

- 1963: Born in Lagos, Nigeria.
- 1980: College Basketball
- 1984: NBA Draft
- 1995: February Player of the Month
- 2008: Inducted into The Basketball Hall of Fame
Imam Zaid Salim Shakir

Ricky D. Mitchell

- 1977: Converted to Islam while in Germany.
- 2001: 1st American Graduate from Syria’s Abu Nour University
- 2008: Co-Founded Zaytuna College
- 2009: One of “The 500 Most Influential Muslims”
Keith Maurice Ellison

- 2007: 1\textsuperscript{st} Muslim elected to Congress. 1\textsuperscript{st} African American elected to House from MN.
- Quran Oath Controversy of the 110th United States Congress
Keith Maurice Ellison
Ibtihaj Muhammad

- Started fencing at 13
- 1st Muslim woman to compete for the US in international competition.
- 2009: Gold - USA Fencing National Championships (Division I Individual)
- 2010: Silver - North American Cup A
- 2011:
  - Gold - Pan American Championships
  - Gold - Pan American Games (Team)
  - Bronze - New York World Cup (Team)
  - **Bronze - Senior World Championships (Team)**
  - Fifth - Pan American Games
Ibithaj Muhammad