



AFRICAN AMERICAN JOURNEY TO ISLAM

For decades, Ahmadi scholars have lamented over the seemingly intentional absence of Ahmadiyya in historical religious discourse and the role Ahmadiyya has played in laying the Islamic foundation of the United States. Likewise, and equally as regrettable, has been the omission of African-American contributions in creating the beautiful tapestry of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. The rich contributions of the African-American who successfully facilitated inroads in uncharted communities are the focus of this ground-breaking exhibit.

... and they prayed too.

In 1889 a spiritual revolution began that would change the landscape of religion in America and the world. The Ahmadiyya Movement, founded by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India, was a reformist movement in Islam. A return to the original tenets of the faith, Ahmadiyya presented an Islam determined to bring humanity together in unity.



Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
(Promised Messiah and Mahdi)

advances. The message of peace and equality in Ahmadiyya was very attractive to African-Americans in a post-slavery, reconstruction America.

African-Americans would find religious freedom and spiritual harmony in Ahmad's Messianic Islamic message. Through the suffrage of Black

life, Ahmadiyya would offer a message of Divine relief and salvation to those who were considered the least of society. African-Americans would be lifted in this movement and the foundation for Islam in America planted for generations to come.

In the last decade of the 19th century, most of the world was under the threat of colonialism by the western world and Christian missionaries. Many oppressed peoples found little relief under such



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