

Dr. Na'im Akbar Bio Sketch

Dr. Na'im Akbar has been acclaimed by Essence Magazine as "one of the world's preeminent Psychologists and a pioneer in the development of an African-centered approach to modern psychology." Dr. Akbar has served as Associate Professor at Norfolk State University, was Chairman of the Morehouse College Psychology Department and is currently on the faculty in the Department of Psychology at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. He has served on the Boards of Directors of a variety of important civic and professional organizations, including several terms on the Board of national Association of Black Psychologists, to which he was elected president in 1987. Dr. Akbar has served on the editorial board of the **Journal of Black Studies** and for eight years was the associate editor of the **Journal of Black Psychology**.

Akbar is a graduate of the University of Michigan, with both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Psychology and has received many honors for his progressive and landmark contributions to his specialized studies of the psychology of the African-American. Among these are the *Annual Member Award* and recognition as *Distinguished Black Psychologists* by the National Association of Black Psychologists for his outstanding scholarship and research in African Psychology.

The Mayors of Atlantic City, New Jersey; Cleveland, Ohio; Jackson, Mississippi and Cincinnati, Ohio have declared **Na'im Akbar Days** in recognition of his accomplishments. He was the recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Scholar Award at Florida State University. In addition, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and Lincoln University (Pennsylvania) have both awarded him honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters. Dr. Akbar has been enthusiastically received at well over 500 colleges, universities, conferences and symposia throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. In 1995 he was enstooled as "Development Chief" at Abono Lakeside Village near Kumasi, Ghana.

Tens of thousands of people around the world have read and been inspired by his highly readable and significant books which include, *Breaking the Chains of Psychological Slavery*, *The Community of Self*, *Visions for Black Men* and *Know Thy Self*, among other titles and numerous scholarly papers and articles. Dr. Akbar has been interviewed on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Tony Brown's Journal*, *The Geraldo Show* and a wide variety of other national and local television programs. Significant articles about him have appeared in **Essence Magazine**, **The Washington Post**, **Jet Magazine** and a large number of local, national and international newspapers. As a recipient of literally scores of plaques and awards, Dr. Akbar is recognized as one the great thinkers and orators of our time.