

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Joshua M. Phillippe

**Humanities Discipline:** Art History

**Date:** June 1, 2016

**World Religion:** Islam

**Teaching Module Title:** Job Ben Solomon (Ayuba Suleiman Diallo)

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. Read and discuss details about the first Muslims in the Americas.
2. Introduce students to Job Ben Solomon and William Hoare's earliest known English portrait of a freed slave.
3. Reflection and class discussions focusing on the selected readings in the context of modern social religious issues.

### Assigned Reading and Videos:

Edward E. Curtis IV, *Muslims in America, A Short History*, Oxford, pages 1-10, 95-96.

Henry Louis Gates Jr., *Which Slave Wrote His Way Out of Slavery?* TheRoot.com

[http://www.theroot.com/articles/history/2012/11/100\\_amazing\\_facts\\_about\\_the\\_negro\\_slaves\\_who\\_won\\_their\\_freedom/](http://www.theroot.com/articles/history/2012/11/100_amazing_facts_about_the_negro_slaves_who_won_their_freedom/)

Dr. Lucy Peltz on the portrait of Ayuba Suleiman Diallo (5 minutes): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4ISXcczIoU>

### Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. How did the first wave of Muslims first arrive in North America?
2. How did Job Ben Solomon come to the attention of the British aristocracy?
3. What does this sensitive portrait painting tell us about the subject and painter?
4. At the end of his article on Louis Henry Gates Jr. tells us that upon returning to Senegal in 1734 one of the first things Job Ben Solomon did was to purchase a slave. What does this mean to our story? What does this tell us about the 18<sup>th</sup> Century?
5. On pages 95-96 Edward E. Curtis IV shares a reflective piece by Asma Gull Hasan called "Jihad with Granddad." What generational divides are made visible in this personal piece?
6. For further reflection on early Muslims in the United States see this link associated with the first portrait of a freed slave by an American artist: <http://publications.newberry.org/outofmany/exhibits/show/islam-in-the-heartland/painting-islam>



*Portrait of Ayuba Suleiman Diallo, called Job ben Solomon (1701-1773) in African dress, with the Qur'an around his neck*  
By William Hoare of Bath, National Portrait Gallery, London