

MR. MUHAMMAD SPEAKS • May, 1960 • 6

# Muhammad

## Welcomed in Mecca & Medina By Top Moslem Leaders

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad made a liar of scoffs and detractors when he completed a dramatic tour of Africa and the Middle East.

The highlight of the tour came when Mr. Muhammad entered Mecca, a journey reserved for true Moslems.

The following accounts of this historic pilgrimage were filed by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad directly from the Moslem world.

*"And when thou seest there, thou shall see blessings and a Great Kingdom."*

*(Holy Qur-an).*

Land of Islam as they have in the land of Christianity, where they would be able to see how peaceful Muslims live and work together.

"As-Salaam-Alaikum" to my followers in America, the most faithful of all. Allah has blessed us to arrive safe and this is our first stop around the Muslim World.

Here in Turkey, the Muslims are so nice to us. My son Akbar asked a maid here in this great beautiful Hotel Hilton if she was a Muslim. The maid answered and said, "We all that are here are Muslims. There are only a few Catholics." Then she said to Akbar, "Are you Muslims?" My son said, "Yes, we are Muslims from America." Then came broad smiles and greetings (Although they do not speak Arabic, many understand Arabic.)

We arrived here on Sunday night, November 22, 1959 around 10:46 P.M. (Turkey Time). We had a Jet Flight from Copenhagen to Istanbul. The scenery from the air at night is very beautiful—she sprawls out over the hillsides with her many beautiful Mosques and gardens. It is well worth your visit.

Sitting here looking from the hotel window on and across that ancient history-making stream of water called the Bosphorus, with her boats and ships slowly ploughing her waters, and that once great Mosque so much talked, written, and read about, now called Ayosofya-Muzes (St. Sophia Museum), makes one to wonder who will be final owner of this world? Will the present nations all together agree to serve and worship the one true God Allah in the one and same spirit?

Islam is the only religion which is making the most progress, in answer to the above question. But what will happen to this progress which is now being made when the reality of Allah has been revealed to them that now believe in Allah only as a spirit? Surely the true religion (Islam) of Allah (God) unites the believers into one Nation of Brotherhood. The spirit of Allah in this religion called Islam is so powerful, so penetrating that it at once begins creating love and unity between the believers. There is no wonder that America now fears that her once slaves (the so-called Negroes) will one day, sooner or later, accept Islam as they accepted Christianity, for the sake of unity, brotherhood, and Divine power against their enemies—which Christianity has completely failed to give the so-called Negroes.

If the poor so-called Negroes could have the chance to live among the Muslims here in the

Land of Islam as they have in the land of Christianity, where they would be able to see how peaceful Muslims live and work together, they would never accept the white man's Christianity any more. The main thing that the so-called Negroes need is Love and Unity among themselves FIRST before they can be loved and respected by other nations of their kind. The white man's Christianity just cannot do it!

The poor so-called Negroes' greatest mistake is that they will spend the whole of their lives trying to get their slavemasters' children to accept them as their people, and neglect trying to be in love and unity with self and their own Black Nation, which is spread over the earth like an ocean of water. The Black Nation includes Brown, Yellow and Red Races (as they are called).

Regardless to the amount of poison contained in the article appearing in the U. S. NEWS and WORLD REPORT, they were intelligent in the way they used it, and I will repeat what I have said from time to time: "I am not surprised at whatever the white race says of evil against the truth that I write in my articles." It is only surprising when my own people, for whom I am offering my life for freedom, justice and equality for them, rise up against me and the truth (which they know to be nothing but the truth) for the favor of the slave-masters of my people. It seems as if they desire nothing but a job to work for the slave-master instead of trying to seek a permanent home and complete separation of themselves (the Negroes) from their enemies, who will never be their friend, nor will they ever divide the country with them.

An intelligent Negro should be

ashamed of himself, at this late date, to preach anything other than separation of white from black, since our people are already being destroyed daily by the white race. The world is changing rulers, and I mean fast, and you who oppose me now shall soon come to know.

## Somewhere In Egyptian Africa

Naturally, the World of Islam does not want us as Christian believers (the white man's made religion). They do not want you calling yourselves by the slavesmasters' names, and this you should learn. The slavesmasters' names have no value with God and the Righteous, for they are not the names of God. But, Muslim names are the names of God (attributes of Allah, God) which have a good Holy meaning.

You will find white Americans happy to continue calling you after their own names, for they well know that God and your people will not accept you if you hold onto their names. You do not have

to go to Court to buy or get one of these names. They are legally yours and mine today only for the acceptance of Islam. If I had not been so universally known in the World of Islam, I would have been laughed at, and probably shunned by the Imams for allowing the slave name to be attached to my Holy name (Muhammad) on my passport. This was done to show that I was born under a slave name, but the Holy Name, Muhammed, shows that Allah had redeemed me and now calls me after His Own Name. The Muslim scholars and Government are well aware of this and the desire of the slavesmasters to disgrace the name of Allah and all Muslims if they can. But, thanks be to Allah, Who came in the Person of Master W. F. Muhammad, to fulfill that which is written of Him, to give to us a name that most surely will take us into the Hereafter.

Islam is a great, peaceful and loving World. I have been regularly attending the Mosques and have met many or all of the leaders in this area of Islam (the top Leaders), from whom I gained

much knowledge. Here in Cairo, I met the Great Imam. He invited me to visit him, and I experienced such a great happy meeting with him. (He is over all the Imams in Cairo, or rather, I should say, Egypt. Sheikh Shaltuat, Sheikh of El-Azhar El. Sharrieff). He is a man around 75 years of age. He placed a kiss upon my head, and I placed a kiss on his hand.

The Muslims can be seen kissing each other on meeting and even just standing and talking with each other. The showing of love is ever present among them. Even their little children play together in peace. They too will meet you and crowd around you like birds to show their love and respect for you as a Muslim. They go to the Mosques and also pray like the adults. You can see the little girls and boys after school dismissal in the courts of the Mosques at the fountains taking abutions (washing their feet and hands) to go inside the Mosques to bow and pray with others. It is well worth a trip around the World to see and learn of these things.

Remember, they have very little to say to you if you are not a Muslim. The Mosque that I visited

Friday, the Holy Qur-an is written in gold on its walls, and they have written on one sheet every chapter, although you must have a magnifying glass to read it. Everyone here is busy (no unemployment). The modernizing of this part of the World is going on at a very high speed. Here are found some of the most beautiful homes your eyes have ever seen. I wish I could ship one back to America for my family!

## In the Sudan

*"Love and greetings to my people in the United States of America"*

We have enjoyed the best hospitality here in Sudan more than in any other place—although we were continually warmly welcomed from Turkey to Sudan. In Egypt, we had the highest honor granted to us—more than we dreamed could ever come to us. Here in Sudan, it is like when one who has been away from his or her home for a long time returns, and on returning, all of the family members come out to meet and welcome you home again. The Mus-

lms here are so proud of us. They make us feel at home.

Last night, we visited their radio station. The staff there did their utmost to show us everything. They did not seem to mind giving us information and answering any question that we wanted to ask. Several pictures were made on the streets of Omdurman. The streets were full and busy with men. No women and girls were out—only those accompanied by their parents, brothers, or husbands. There were no quarrels, no drinking of intoxicating liquors, gambling, fighting, swearing or filthy language to be seen or heard. Here among these black Muslims is a complete atmosphere of love and unity.

Two car loads of the highest officials of Islam in Sudan came to the Hotel after me and my sons. They are to return this evening at 6:00 P.M. (9:00 A.M. Chicago time) to attend a Tea Party given by the Muslim leaders in our honor. It is wonderful to meet and live in peace with your brothers—where brotherhood is not mere talk, but is really practiced.

From here (Khartoum) and farther South in Sudan, you really meet with pure blooded originals, and they all know you to be their lost-found brother who was taken from them 400 years ago by the slave trader. The subject is too touching to them, and they do not like talking about it. But, what they want to know—Will you accept your God, Allah, and His religion, Islam, and return home? You will hear this everywhere.

The leaders are not dumb to the history, prophecy, and time. The cry of the people everywhere is "Unity of the Brotherhood of Islam and Man." It is the unsolved problem of the world which must be solved before it explodes. In that case (if it explodes), there will be only a few left out of the total population of the earth.

We are now on our way to make three stops in Arabia, the Home and Capitol State of Islam, if it be the Will of Allah, to Whom be praised forever. So far, from my overservation, (and that is the purpose of my Tour of the Muslim World—not to try to teach them), and from what I hear, this world

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needs modernizing both physically and spiritually to meet the changing needs of the time. They are willing and submissive. Oh, if I only could speak their language! But let us rejoice in Him that has visited us in America under the name, Master W. F. Muhammad!

## **"Al-Hajj" (The Pilgrimage)**

On my arrival in Jeddah, Arabia, December 23, 1959, it was almost a necessity that I go to Mecca. The next day was Thursday, December 24, 1959, and the authorities made ready a car to take me and my two sons over the little forty mile distance from Jeddah to that ancient city which is the glory of the Muslim World of Islam. It is the only city on our planet that is divinely protected and made sacred and inviolatable—almost surrounded with bleak hills of stone and sand. We were dressed in what is called the Ihram, which consists of two sheets of flesh towel-like material—one to cover the upper part of the body leaving the right arm exposed, and the other one covered the lower part of the body. We also wore a pair of sandal-like slippers. These were the only clothes that we wore from Jeddah to Mecca.

On our arrival, we were taken to a hotel where we washed our faces and hands again, and a guide was brought to us. He was an old man—tall and very slender. He had been informed of me, and he took me by the hand like a father leading his child.

As we began walking from the hotel to that sacred mosque of Islam, he made us recite after him, in Arabic, the prayers and some verses from the Holy Qur-an every step of the way. On entering that holy and magnificent place, he proceeded with us to the court where stands the Kaaba and that prophetic sign—the Black Stone that the builders rejected, placed in one corner of that great black veiled monument that stands in a circle.

Our guide made us remove our sandals before circling it, and they were left outside with an old Muslim sister. Then we began making the seven circles around the Kaaba repeating prayers at every step of the way, and stopping at two of its corners on every trip around raising our hands toward it while repeating a prayer and then saying, "Allah-u-Akbar" (Allah is the Greatest).

There were between five to ten thousand Muslims inside the court of the mosque. Such a prayer service I have never witnessed before being with these thousands of sincere worshippers of God, His religion, and Muhammad His Prophet. On encircling it for the last time, the pilgrim makers are asked to kiss the Black Stone. There before my eyes were many hands of pilgrims trying to reach for that Stone.

After circling the Kaaba seven times and saying prayers, our guide then made us go and make the seven runs between the hills of Safa and Marwah. He never let hand go, except to raise his

hand in prayer. I can not ever forget him. I will not ever forget Allah for blessing me to make the Pilgrimage and for my faithful followers in America. Some of them who may never be fortunate to make such a Pilgrimage divided their wealth to make it possible for me and those whom I chose to make this never to be forgotten Pilgrimage. May Allah forever bless them.

On Friday, December 25, 1959, we visited the prayer service in the city of the Prophet Muhammad—as it is called by many Muslims, the city of Medina, the second Holy City of Islam. It is a beautiful city just out of a range of hills and mountains. You travel through these rocky mountains for nearly a hundred miles or more before reaching Medina.

The mosque was so filled with Muslims that you could hardly find a place to prostrate, but luckily we found a place right behind the tomb of the Prophet Muhammad—a beautiful and magnificent tomb it is. While the Imam recited prayer and the Holy Quran within the great mosque, it seemed as if everything in it was worshipping, as the voice of the Imam rebounded through that sacred structure.

For one to just visit these two cities (Mecca and Medina) alone is worth several trips around the world. We were dressed in the regular Arab style—the robe-like dress and head piece; this manner of dress made it a little difficult for my sons to distinguish me from the others—though I was but a few yards away. After prayer, they were looking all over for me, and I had to hold up my hand for them to recognize me.

We were lucky on our arrival in Jeddah; to our surprise, Allah had placed a guide for us on the plane. When we left Asmara, Ethiopia, he came to our aid in the Customs Office to help us to get pass without so much unnecessary waiting. He made us acquainted with the officers as though he had known us in America—(he was only twenty-four years old.) On telling the officers that I was Elijah Muhammad with a large number of followers in America, there was handshaking and praises to Allah, and many wishes for by blessing and success.

This young Muslim guide was born in Mecca; he was the one who went to Mecca and returned with us; he never left us except when we were ready to retire for sleep. He was ever mindful for my sake, since to please and to honor me was his sole desire.

When I was leaving him early Monday, December 28, 1959, at the airport, he fell on my neck kissing me while giving the Muslims the greetings as if I were his true father. He would not let me sit with the others on the hard benches that morning in the Customs Office, for he asked to allow me to come into the office and sit on their seats. The officer did not hesitate, and he came to me with open arms and welcomed me to a very comfortable place alone in the office to wait. As David says in his Psalms—"It is good to meet with the brethren."