

# Interview with the Hon. Wallace D. Muhammad

(Continued from page 3)

my Father as an earthly man; it was the work of God, and that discipline will stay.

M.S.: Most of the press never heard of you, Minister Wallace Muhammad, or knew little about you until this week. What has been your background? —

a—Where and when were you born?

b—What has been your education?

c—What work have you done?

d—Have you always lived in Chicago?

e—To whom are you married and when?

f—How many children do you have?

g—What are their names?

SUPREME MIN.: My background for the most part has been Islamic studies, Bible studies, and Nation of Islam studies.

I was born in Detroit — Hamtramck, Michigan, Oct. 30, 1933. I received elementary and high school education at the University of Islam here in Chicago.

I have done many jobs in the Nation of Islam as a young Junior Fruit (of Islam); I was once a lieutenant in the FOI. I was once a common soldier, or common FOI in the rank of the common soldier, who are called now, newspapermen or message spreaders.

Outside of the spiritual work and the Nation of Islam work, I have worked as a painter; I have worked in a live poultry market. I have worked in a scrap iron yard, and I have worked as a welder and have held many other similar jobs.

I have always lived in Chicago except for about two and one-half years when I lived in Philadelphia as a minister of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, over the Philadelphia Temple. This was in the years 1958, '59 and '60.

Fourteen months of my life were spent at the Federal Correctional Institution in Sandstone, Minn.

Yes, I am married. I have been married three times. I married the first time April 28, 1959. This marriage was to Sister Shirley Muhammad, my present wife. My daughter Laila, the child of this first marriage is my oldest daughter.

**Muhammad Speaks: "What has been your most important decision thus far, as Leader of the Nation of Islam?"**

**Supreme Minister: "The decision to continue to seek God first and last, and give my whole self to Him alone."**

I have five children. Their names are Laila, Ngina, Wallace, Bakeerah and Sadru-Din.

I remarried Sister Shirley, my present wife. From this third marriage came Ngina, Wallace and Sadru-Din.

M.S.: Where will your official residence be?

SUPREME MIN.: I don't see any future changes coming. I live in Chicago and my residence will be here at Headquarters.

M.S.: When and why were you sent to jail?

SUPREME MIN.: I was sentenced, I believe, Oct. 29, for failing to report to Elgin State Hospital as was



THE HONORABLE WALLACE D. Muhammad, who has been to the Holy City Mecca for the Hajji, reads the Holy Qur'an in Arabic as well as in English, and is fluent in Arabic speech.

required under those laws affecting conscientious objectors.

I was sentenced to three years to be spent at Sandstone, Minn. Federal Correctional Institution. My sentence term began Oct. 30, 1961, and I was released on parole Jan. 10, 1963.

M.S.: What did you occupy yourself with while in jail?

SUPREME MIN.: Islamic studies — the Qur'an was available — and Bible studies; the study of my Father as a great Divinely guided leader of the Nation of Islam and His teachings and work; the studies of His people, our people, so-called Negroes who were imprisoned and who formed with me in prison one close community of convicts. I gained a lot from this study.

I learned to understand the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, especially His admiration for His people and His special love for His people, and His special faith that he

showed by always giving big challenges to His people to accept and meet with dignity.

M.S.: Now that you are the Supreme Minister of the Nation of Islam, what will your programs and policies be? Will they be exactly the same as your Father's, the Messenger of Allah?

SUPREME MIN.: The programs and policies will be dictated as they were dictated when the Honorable Elijah Muhammad was physically, spiritually with us. They are dictated by Divine Guidance, most of which established in the long history and great works of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. If there should be any change or any need for additions, it will come just as it came to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

The dictates will be exactly the same as those that were given to my father. They come from Scripture—Scripture that He had a unique eye for, and could interpret rightly. And they come from God's Own Help. They will be exactly the same.

M.S.: As Supreme Minister, will you have all of the powers that your Father had, or does "not being the Messenger" imply that you will have less power and authority? If so, in

what areas?

SUPREME MIN.: Well, I will ask those who would like to know more on this question to research or study the history of prophetic figures in the Bible and Qur'an.

Moses was called the Prophet or Messenger of God, may peace be upon him, and Joshua came into that leadership. When Muhammad, the Holy Prophet of Arabia, physically passed away and spiritually returned to his God, the leadership remained. History shows it as a power equal or the same as that which existed under the personal supervision of that Arabian Prophet.

Messenger is a title. It speaks of or describes a birth and a Mission. That is, how that Mission came to that man. One who inherits and is favored with the same support that is given to the Messenger has another name to describe him or to identify him or to stand as a title for him.

That name or title for me is Supreme Minister of the Nation of Islam. And my role is not that of a Messenger of God, but that of a Mujaddid. M - U - J - E - D - D - I - D, meaning "One to watch over the new Islam" and see that it is constantly and continually being renewed.

M.S.: Brother Minister, I noticed when you mentioned the Prophet Moses, you said: "May the peace of Allah be upon him." Will you teach your followers when they refer to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad to say this?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes.

M.S.: The word you used to describe your position, Mujaddid, what is the translation of that word into English as one word?

SUPREME MIN.: Mujaddid means Reviver; one who renews.

M.S.: Are any of your brothers ministers? If so, which ones?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes. Under the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, my brother, Minister Nathaniel Muhammad was made minister, and also my eldest brother, Minister Emanuel Muhammad.

M.S.: Do they have the same authority as other ministers?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes, they do. They have the same authority. They also have a unique ministry in that they are of the loam and of the household of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad — may the peace of Allah be upon Him.

M.S.: Your brothers who are not ministers, are you using them in any capacity in the Nation of Islam, or are they aides to yourself used in the capacity of consultants?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes. The last part of the question is true. They are all consulted by me. I consult each and every one of them, because each one has his own special contribution and qualification.

(Continued on page 12)