

Supreme Minister of the Nation of Islam

that within the last two or three years. He has been getting away from making as His main issue, the mistreatments the Black man has received from the hands of the white man, especially in calling the white people "devils."

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has wisely treated this name given by Dr. Lincoln. He has treated it in such a way to make it clear that He rejects it as a racist label, but accepts it as an identifying term which groups Him and His followers with all

the bad memories you recall from your early childhood days growing up in the household of your Father, and of your Father, and of prison and of your grandfather's death?

SUPREME MIN.: Among the good memories, I recall first in the very earliest times of my

the Hon. Elijah Muhammad and for the care and safety of His immediate Family.

I recall many of them. I will not name any of them now, because I don't think it would be fair to others to name a few and not name all. I recall them being so dear to us that my other brothers and sisters and I often think of them as aunts, uncles and relatives in our Family.

The bad memories are hard to recall simply because the good memories are so overwhelming. But I do recall a few:

One, being the arrest of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad by the Government for refusing World War II draft. I recall Him being taken from our home in the 60th Block on Vernon Ave., in Chicago.

Another bad memory I recall is the treatment that this Great Man, this Divine leader, the Hon. Elijah Muhammad, received by innocent, but very misinformed members of the Black community in the early history of the works of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. The ugly names they called Him, the ugly treatment, the ugly names they put on His Family members.

But many of these people who treated us so badly in the Black community, we lived to see come to us again and apologize for their bad conduct. And some of them became members in the Nation of Islam.

M.S.: What did Master W.D. Fard Muhammad tell your Father about you before your birth and when was this first revealed to you and by whom?

SUPREME MIN.: I couldn't truthfully say who revealed it to me first, but I can only remember my mother, because she kept it before me. She told me that before I was born, while I was growing in her, my name was put on the

fears or joy did you experience as a result of this knowledge?

SUPREME MIN.: I can't say that this knowledge influenced me or influenced my early childhood in any certain way or influenced me to become different. But looking back at my childhood, as an adult, now, I do know that it did influence me. But I was not aware of the influences then.

It was a kind of subtle influence. It was intended for my protection and for my growth. It was not given to make me aware of myself as any special person.

I did not think of myself as any special person. I only now, think of myself as a special person because I have come into a Special Office.

M.S.: Due to your previous knowledge of your future in your early life, quite naturally, we feel that it was known also by your brothers and sisters. Did you notice any special treatment that was shown to you from your brothers and sisters that they didn't show to each other? Did they recognize your opinions over theirs when it came to spiritual teachings or knowledge of their Father's mission?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes, I did recognize special treatment being given to me by my other brothers and sisters and they did respect my religious Scriptural contributions. They did encourage me in this path.

M.S.: When you were away from the group, I wouldn't say the Nation, because I know the Nation was in you, but when you were away from the group, did your brothers and sisters still show love for you? Did any of them try to help you in any way?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes, they did. I recall being contacted at one time or another by each one of them. And whenever they got any news of my ill health or other difficulties they



(Photo by Ali Muhammad)

The Honorable Wallace D. Muhammad
Supreme Minister of the Nation of Islam

Why do you feel that He stopped stressing that the white man is the devil?

SUPREME MIN.: A Messenger or a Divinely guided man has a responsibility to deliver a message and point to direction and signs. You point out an enemy to focus attention on the enemy. When that attention has been given and the enemy has begun to reform or to correct his conduct, it would be uncivilized and certainly un-Godly to stay with the finger pointing violently at the enemy.

M.S.: Are you going to follow the trend of not putting stress on the white man's past atrocities against the Black man?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes, the past is the past, unless it is dug up. We will not dig it up.

M.S.: Will you keep the name "Black Muslim," which your Father, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon Him and his offspring, accepted officially in editorials in some of his columns?

SUPREME MIN.: The name "Black Muslim" was not given by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon Him. This name was given by Dr. C. Eric Lincoln in his book on the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and His great work.

Black people.

M.S.: Do you plan to build any memorial or edifice to the memory of your Father, the most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, may the peace and blessing of Allah be upon Him?

SUPREME MIN.: This is the desire and wish of the immediate Family members. It is also accepted as the desire of the National leadership and the general membership.

M.S.: Will members of the Nation of Islam, who are under suspension, now be readmitted or will past decisions stand?

SUPREME MIN.: As regards to disciplinary action on law-breaking or delinquent Muslims of the Nation of Islam, the policies and practices remain the same; but anyone now as in the past is free and is encouraged to have his case reviewed if they feel there is cause for new consideration.

M.S.: How does the Honorable Wallace Muhammad perceive his role in history and in leading Black people universally?

SUPREME MIN.: I perceive this role as the role of an office established by God. It is no different than the role of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon Him.

M.S.: What are some of the good memories and some of

childhood how I was influenced and captured by the devotion of my mother, may peace be upon her, Sister Clara Muhammad. She was devoted 100 per cent. She was a selfless person, a self-sacrificing person for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, may peace and blessing be upon Him.

And seeing a mother so selfless and so self-sacrificing and seeing her more concerned about pleasing the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, may peace and blessings be upon Him, than she was about pleasing herself, went into me and helped to make me the person I am today. It was my first food.

Secondly, among these good memories, was the fear, respect and love in my brothers and sisters and other immediate members of the Family. No matter how angry they became, no matter how emotionally upset they became, they never became blind to the need for self-preservation of themselves as members in the following of the Hon. Elijah Muhammad. They too, grew on the same food given to me from my parents, a unique, close and Divine relationship.

Also, the followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad from the earliest times of my life, that I can now recall, I can see sacrificing themselves, their time, their possessions, and even their very lives for

"Do you feel as though you will be living in your Father's shadow?"

SUPREME MINISTER: "I would like to change the word 'shadow' to 'light' — I feel as though I will be living in my Father's light."

door, on the back of the door in chalk by Master W.F. Muhammad.

He told her and my Father that the baby would be a boy and a helper to his Father. I recall also my Father telling me many times that He asked for a boy and was told that He would get a boy.

He wanted a boy to help Him in His work. He was asked to give the promise that if He received a boy, He would let the boy help Him in His work.

M.S.: Did this knowledge make your early childhood different in any way? What

came to me or they reached out to me, as sisters and brothers do.

M.S.: Your Father always spoke out strongly against injustice and oppression inflicted upon Black people in America and His theme, as noted on the emblem of Muhammad Speaks newspaper, was freedom, justice and equality for the so-called Negro.

Do you intend to tone down this theme or shall you continue the struggle against injustice and for freedom

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