

Supreme Minister interview

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waged by our Father for the Black man here in America?

SUPREME MIN.: I will follow as my Father has lead, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon Him. When evil began to subside, we began to tone down. But we will not spare any of our energy or even our lives if necessary to see that our people receive freedom, justice and equality, and all people, for that matter.

M.S.: How close are you to all of the immediate Family?

SUPREME MIN.: I consider myself to be very close to all of the immediate Family.

M.S.: Do you plan to meet with other Black leaders? If so, how often?

SUPREME MIN.: The Honorable Elijah Muhammad met with and invited Black leaders and He met with the most outstanding leaders. This will be continued. I have longed to meet many of our great Black leaders outside the Nation of Islam, whom I will not name now. And I anticipate meeting them. We will meet as often as it is necessary.

I hope there will not be any great lapse of time between my seeing the great leaders of our people, who've worked and sacrificed for the good of our people, but are not members of the Nation of Islam.

M.S.: What has been your most important decision thus far, as Leader of the Nation of Islam?

SUPREME MIN.: The decision to continue to seek God first and last and give my whole self to Him alone.

M.S.: Do you feel as though you will be living in your Father's shadow?

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

M.S.: Will you continue the policy of racial separation?

SUPREME MIN.: Separation, racial separation, this expression as it is understood in the Nation of Islam, especially by those who have had direct contact with The Hon. Elijah Muhammad and have had Him teach on this particular kind of separation personally, and I have received His teachings from His own mouth, know that racial separation in the Nation of Islam is far different from the meaning of racial separation in the language of white supremacy.

He has received guests, he has respected white guests. White guests drank from his own cups and used his own chinaware, his spoons, forks, and no one told the servants, the table servants, to break up those cups and see that these forks were not used again.

Racial separation has its

place in the program for the resurrection and restoration of the fallen and oppressed Black community. It has no place in the language of white supremacy or has no meaning in such language.

M.S.: Will you in the future in some of your public addresses, elaborate more on the separation of Black and white as understood by you?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes, I will.

M.S.: Will the Muslim Headquarters remain in Chicago?

SUPREME MIN.: This question, word for word, was asked at this table by a Secretary, and the question was directed to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, may peace be upon Him, and I give you His answer. "It will always be in Chicago."

It will never go back to Detroit or to any other state in the United States of America.

M.S.: Whom do you consider as your most important aide?

SUPREME MIN.: Those who have truth in their hearts and love in their hearts for that truth and the willingness to sacrifice for that truth — the true believers.

M.S.: Should there be any trouble in out-of-town Temples, will you personally go to that city and attempt to clear up that problem?

SUPREME MIN.: If it should be or should become a necessity and the proper thing to do I will gladly do it.

M.S.: Have you received condolences from many leaders in the Muslim countries. If so, which ones?

SUPREME MIN.: We have received many condolences from Muslims all over the world, and Arab Muslims speaking for many in Arab lands.

M.S.: Your Father has brothers and sisters who are up in age. With such a large family, how will they be cared for?

SUPREME MIN.: Things will continue as they have been under the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. They were cared for and they will continue to be cared for, no less than before.

M.S.: Will you accept or seek the U.S. Government's financial aide if needed?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes, we will.

M.S.: Do you think that the Muslim organization is influenced by outsiders who are attempting to cause trouble?

SUPREME MIN.: No, indeed.

M.S.: Who are your top woman aides in the Nation of Islam?

SUPREME MIN.: We have several top aides among the women in the Nation of Islam. We have Headquarter's Captain of the MGT, Sister

Pasha. We have Directress of Education here at Headquarters, Sister Marva. And we have a hard-working secretary who was the personal secretary here at this residence for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, peace be upon Him, Sister Velora Najieb. And His niece also, Sister Gail Bahar.

At this very moment, His Secretary at this residence, Sister Shirley Hazziez is recording this meeting. There are many others. No one individual sister holds all power for the many sisters in the Nation of Islam.

M.S.: By what title do you want the followers of the Nation of Islam to call you or refer to you by?

SUPREME MIN.: The Supreme Minister of the Nation of Islam. I am pleased with this name or address, and I thank them for this great respect.

M.S.: Was your Father, the Messenger of Allah, ever referred to as the Supreme Minister of the Nation of Islam?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes, He was. In the first days of His mission, He was referred to by this name. But this should not be taken as an indication or as a suggestion that I will one day become the Messenger of Allah. I am the Messenger of this Message.

M.S.: How do you want the press to address you?

SUPREME MIN.: The same official title — the Supreme Minister of the Nation of Islam.

M.S.: When did you really know that you would take over such an important position as Head of the Nation of Islam?

SUPREME MIN.: When the time required it and God wanted it. At that time, I knew.

M.S.: When did you last talk with the Messenger?

SUPREME MIN.: My last talk with the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon Him, was a few days before his passing at Mercy Hospital.

M.S.: Do you believe that you can carry the affairs of the Nation of Islam equally as well as your Father did?

SUPREME MIN.: If this question had been asked of Him, if He believed that He could carry out the duties, His answer would have been: "Allah is with me and behind me: He will see that these duties are carried out." And that is exactly my answer.

M.S.: How do you feel about your new position?

SUPREME MIN.: I feel that much has been given me. That I have been greatly favored by Almighty God and by the members of the Nation of Islam, from the highest office

The Love of the Greatest Leader

By Shirley Hazziez
Temple No. 2

While witnessing the great funeral procession of Sister Clara Muhammad, the wife of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, in August of 1972, I never thought I would ever see anything like it again. But, last Friday, February 28, 1975, I witnessed a funeral that was the greatest and most memorable funeral in the history of man, that had a procession extending for 10 miles.

There never has been, nor will ever be a man equal in magnitude and greatness as the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. He was not only the greatest economic Leader the world has ever known, but He was the Greatest Spiritual Leader the world has ever known.

Never again will there be a Messenger sent to a people; never again will there be a Messenger or Prophet to die for a people. Messenger Muhammad marked the end of the prophets. He fulfilled the histories of all the prophets before Him, even to death.

to those who carry duties from the lowest offices.

I give you the answer to this question in the Bible words: "To whom much is given, much is required."

M.S.: Do you think that Islam is the answer for the Black man in America and all over the earth?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes, I do. I say as the Honorable Elijah Muhammad said, "Islam is the answer to the problem of the Black man in America."

M.S.: What are your plans for the hospital, since your hospital drive is going on?

SUPREME MIN.: We do not and cannot give up working for those projects desired and worked toward by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad under His leadership. The drive will continue. We will not rest until we have His desire which is our desire, a hospital for our people.

M.S.: Do you feel that the white man is capable of becoming a Muslim?

SUPREME MIN.: Yes, I do. But, when he becomes a Muslim, he will no longer be white — he will just simply be Muslim.

M.S.: Through your organization, Black people have been able to find that missing element so vital to social

existence. that of identity. Would you say that your movement is a social one, after which it is a religious one?

SUPREME MIN.: In Islam, and especially under the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, religion, that is Islam, embraces and incorporates all the vital institutions of society. It is spiritual, moral, social, economic, and the like.

M.S.: Will you continue to have representatives from your organization enter the various jails, administering help to the inmates as your Father has done in the past?

SUPREME MIN.: The Honorable Elijah Muhammad did this in fulfillment of the Scripture, that He would go into the prison-houses and open the prison doors. That means that He would go into the prison-houses with the words of Truth that have in them the power to reform, to rehabilitate the convicted, and justify the innocent.

And it is only with this key that a prison can truly be opened. For just opening a physical door often proves to mean little, for many return because their lives have not been changed.