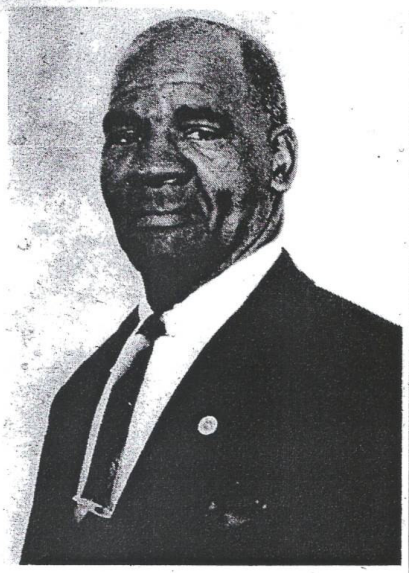

JAMES PASHA, a senior member of the Nation of Islam.

Became Muslim After

The 1st Speech I Heard From Lips Of The Messenger

By JAMES PASHA
Chicago, Ill.)

For the past 31 years of my life, I have been a faithful follower of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad. In all of that time, my faith in Islam and Allah, the God of the universe, has only increased.

I was born in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, in 1897 among a poor family of ten children. My father was a lifetime woodcutter who never was allowed by the redneck white power structure to gain his manhood as a first-class citizen.

Even as a child, I then deeply resented the superior manner in which whites treated Negroes. Had someone asked me then to define what it was that I resented so fiercely, perhaps I couldn't have told you how I felt—but it was there nevertheless.

I remember that I once got so fed up with this southern way of life, that I told my mother, "I'm leaving here as soon as I'm grown enough to go."

I soon left Arkansas for Chicago, where I was dealt a more deplorable fate. In those days, I was nothing but a rowdy, whiskey-drinking fool. I would finish one 90-day sentence at the Chicago City Jail or Bridewell Prison, get arrested for the same thing again and land myself right back in there.

I was tough. I would pick a fight with somebody over nothing and I loved to frighten people with my rowdiness.

[illegible] to stay alive during the Depression years, I hustled junk and waste to collect enough money for booze and an occasional meal and a place to stay. I was dirty and going nowhere fast. I was fighting the future and mad at the past.

In the spring of 1933, a friend of mine came by my house and told me about a so-called messenger who was speaking in Chicago's black ghetto that night. He said that his messenger could speak for six hours at a time.

Thinking I might be entertained for a while, I agreed to go to the meeting. Almost overnight, Islam captured my imagination and my loyalty once I heard this great man of God, the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

His topic for that speech was "God Rode the Mule." This eloquent speech by this great man bound me to Islam forever. The clear and precise account Apostle Elijah Muhammad gave of the Almighty God Allah and His eagerness to aid all people who turned to Him, deeply inspired me.

No longer would I walk the streets of Chicago with a chip on my shoulder. No longer did I desire to engage in fights to prove my manhood. I began to realize how wonderful it feels to be a proud black man.

Messenger Elijah Muhammad taught me that regardless of what kind of employment I had, that there is dignity in it. Mr. Muhammad taught me the importance of self preservation and the wastefulness of liquor and smoking.

It was, I sincerely believe, our people's love of Allah that once brought us before a rather severe test in 1935. Messenger Muhammad constantly forewarned us of the dangers ahead, so I was not really surprised when our followers ended up in a Chicago courtroom.

(In the next issue of MUHAMMAD SPEAKS, read Brother James Pasha's amazing account of a courtroom trial that exploded into violence!)

Cites 20-Year Association With Messenger of Allah

By MINISTER ISAIAH KARRIEM
(Baltimore, Md.)

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the spiritual head of the fastest growing Muslim movement in the Western hemisphere, is truly indeed the Messenger of Allah of whom we, his followers, are very grateful.

We pray to Allah:

"Bless Muhammad, Thy message, the best of Thy creatures, the chosen one of Thy servants, the harbinger of mercy, the prosecutor of goodness, the key to blessings. He exerts himself for Thy purpose and exposes himself to pain for Thy sake, and faulted Thy enemy till his mission was accomplished; and what was planned for his friends was achieved.

Thy commandments were established and Thy word was exalted.

Therefore, O' Allah, exalt him for his exertion to Thy cause to the highest rank in Thy paradise till his position may not be equalled by any angel or prophet.

Endow him with effective intersection for sacred members of his house and true believers."

As a follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, a helper in this great cause of resurrecting this poor dead people of ours, and after hearing of the slander and lies of our Beloved Leader and Teacher by the Hypocrites and disbelievers, I would like to tell the world my experience with the Honorable Elijah Muhammad over the last 20 or more years.

First of all, I can truthfully say that after 20 years going in and out of his home, sleeping in his home, riding with him in his car, dining with him at his table, I have never seen anything on or about the Honorable Elijah Muhammad but a righteous man.

MINISTER ISAIAH KARRIEM

Some of these hypocrites accuse him of embezzlement, which is a lie and the one who told it doesn't believe it. On the contrary, Messenger Muhammad gives his followers far more than they give him, and this has been true ever since I have known him.

And those two prostitutes who accused the Messenger of getting babies, should hang their heads in shame for the rest of their lives for putting out such lies on the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Here the Messenger has been ill for the last 2 or 3 years, sometimes too weak to get out of bed, and yet they accuse him.

We all know that the hypocrites and the disbelievers are trying desperately to stop the progress of Messenger Muhammad. That no good Malcolm Little, who the Messenger of Allah took out of the garbage can and nursed as he would a baby until he didn't want for anything, was able to go anywhere he chose with expenses paid.

After Messenger Muhammad took him and gave him wisdom, knowledge, understanding, a reputation in which everyone admired, the only thanks he gave the Messenger was lying, scandal, and trying to pull followers away from the Messenger to follow him to his own selfish end.

We, the followers of Messenger Muhammad are with him and are very sick and tired of hearing hypocrites and disbelievers tell lies on our Beloved Leader and Teacher when there is no cause for it. It should be ever so clear by now that after 33 years of the hypocrites and disbelievers trying to oppose the Messenger of Allah that their efforts have been to no avail.

They should also know that Allah is with His Messenger, as it is written in the book of Isaiah, "that no weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper and every tongue that rises up against thee in judgement thy shall condemn."

So, again I thank Allah for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and I pray Allah that I will always be faithful to his cause.