

Pro and Con on "Black Muslims"

The Lost-Found Nation of Islam in the West has, in the past, commonly been referred to as the "Black Muslims" by the commercial press and by the reactionary news media. Muhammad Speaks Newspaper, in an attempt to clear up the last vestiges of ignorance that remain in the general community concerning the "Black Muslims," would like to present to its readers the following two articles which reflect the extremities of opinion which exist on our religious mission.

The first article (author unknown) entitled "Black Muslims" Still Unbelievers is reprinted from the September - October, 1975 edition of *Al-Islam*, which is published by The Islamic Party In North America. In the

organization's "eight point message." The ISPNA points out that a clear distinction is made between an Islamic Society and the Eastern Muslim countries:

"We make a clear distinction between an Islamic Society and the Eastern Muslim countries. These so-called Muslim countries are neither Islamic states, nor are their governments legal according to the Quran, Those who do not judge according to what Allah has revealed are unbelievers" V:47. The people have relegated the legislative authority of Allah to men, and have submitted to this illegitimate authority.

"These societies are filled with the same evils as other atheistic and materialistic societies: dictatorships, political corruption, economic exploitation, social

irresponsibility and moral degeneration. The Islamic Revolution is needed in the East as well as in the West."

Muhammad Speaks Newspaper is making this space available to the brothers and sisters of ISPNA so that their opinions of the Lost-Found Nation of Islam in the West may be shared with the 4,000,000 weekly readers of our newspaper all over the world.

The second article is a letter which was written to the editor of *Al-Islam* in response to the article on the "Black Muslims." It was written by a Pakistani - American missionary who has been active in the worldwide mission of propagating Islam for many years.

"Black Muslims" still unbelievers

The following article is reprinted from the last edition of *AL-ISLAM*. We received many compliments thanking us for clarifying the differences between true (orthodox) Muslims and the 'Black Muslims.' Consequently, we felt that many people would also appreciate reading this point of clarification.

Our stance against "The Nation of Islam" (Black Muslims) is because of their misrepresentation of Islam. If their organization was called something else, and if the religion they teach had some other name, we would find the 'Black Muslims' of negligible interest. However, as Muslims sincere to our faith and mission, we are obliged to speak up and defend our religion and way of life from mockery and distortion.

Since the death of Elijah (Poole) Muhammad, his followers (popularly known as 'Black Muslims') have made some surprising changes in their organization and program. Whites are no longer called "devils" and will be allowed to become members. More Arabic terminology and verses from the Holy Quran

are appearing in Muhammad Speaks newspaper. The speeches of Wallace Muhammad, son and successor of Elijah, and the speeches of his ministers are now oriented toward "spiritual" themes. In fact, one could say that the group is beginning to look and sound a bit more like Orthodox Muslims.

No one, however, should be fooled by these changes. They are tricks to further deceive and mislead people. None of these changes have any significance as far as what determines who is a true Muslim and who is not. Until the 'Black Muslims' openly renounce Elijah Muhammad and the lies he taught regarding the nature of Allah (God), the finality of Prophethood, and the Resurrection and life after death, they can never enter the fold of Islam. According to the criteria of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah (established practice) of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), they are not Muslims and their organization does not represent Islam.

The 'Black Muslim' belief

about Allah (God) is pure ignorance. Elijah says in his book, *Message to the Blackman*: "God is a man and we just cannot make Him other than man." (p.6) and "the great archdeceivers (the white race) were taught by their father...how to teach that God is a spirit (spook) and not a man." (p.9) According to the 'Black Muslims', God "appeared in the person of Master W. Fard Muhammad, July 1930. (Muhammad Speaks, March 14, 1975, back page) and "was persecuted, sent to jail in 1932, and ordered out of Detroit..." (*Message to the Blackman*, p.24).

In contrast, the Islamic conception of Allah (God)—a unique, non-material, limitless, all-powerful, eternal being—is the same belief that has been taught by all the Prophets of God from the time of Adam on down to Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) of Arabia. Allah describes Himself in the Holy Quran: "Say: He is Allah, the One and Only; Allah, the Eternal, Absolute. He begets not, nor was He begotten, and

there is none comparable to Him. (CXII: 1-4) and "No vision can grasp Him..." (VI: 103) In reference to the true nature of Allah and the belief of Orthodox Muslims, Elijah Muhammad declared: "I would not give two cents for that kind of God in which they believe." (*Muhammad Speaks*, Nov. 24, 1972)

Elijah Muhammad also claimed that he was a "Messenger of Allah," and his followers addressed him by that title. But the last Messenger of Allah was Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) over 1300 years ago. Allah (God) announces in the Holy Quran: "Muhammad (ibn Abdullah) is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets..." (XXXIII: 40) Furthermore, Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), explaining his relationship to the Prophets of the past, said that the institution of Prophethood was like a building whose construction was complete except for one brick. He then said that he was

that final brick and that no Prophet or Messenger was to come after him. (Muslim and Bukhari)

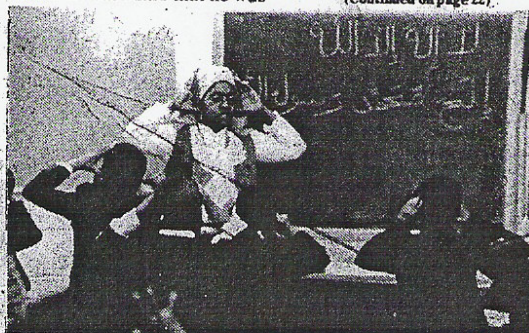
On numerous other occasions Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) proclaimed that he was the last Messenger and Prophet. For example, Jaber reported that the Holy Prophet said: "I am the leader of the Messengers and this is no boast, and I am the last of the Messengers and this is no boast..." (Darimi); Abu Hurairah reported that the Apostle of Allah said: "...I have been sent to the entire creation and the Prophets came to an end with me..." (Muslim); and, Jubair bin Mutem reported that the Holy Prophet said: "...I am al-Aqib (the one who comes last) after whom will be no Prophet..." (Muslim and Bukhari).

As far as the Resurrection and life after death are concerned, the followers of Elijah Muhammad believe "not in physical resurrection—but in mental resurrection." (*Muhammad Speaks*, March 14, 1975, back

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INTERNATIONAL MUSLIM Community congregate during the Eid-ul-Fitr commemoration, marking the close of the Holy Month of Ramadan.



ATTENTIVE MUSLIM students learn how to pray prior to the end of Ramadan.