

Pakistani Muslim Says:

Muhammad's Message May Baffle Some but It Works

By Abdul Basit Naeem

I am not, by profession, a nuclear physicist. I know very little, if anything at all, about the physical or chemical properties of "energy" or "matter." I have never seen an atomic reactor in operation, nor am I familiar with the techniques employed in utilizing the atom's might—whether for man's benefit or for his annihilation. Yet, somehow, I am aware that the atom is a source of tremendous latent force and power.

Similarly, I am not a physician. I have never studied



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biology, physiology or medicine. I cannot detect or diagnose ailments, nor am I in a position to prescribe treatment for afflictions. I have no idea at all how a modern "miracle drug" is manufactured or how it cures, and, as in some cases, prevents disease. Yet I cannot deny the potency and potential effectiveness of many a present-day pharmaceutical product.

I AM NOT an agricultural expert or soil specialist, either. I recognize the fact that Allah (God) — "with Whom, verily, all things are possible" — can and, indeed, does germinate and transform dehydrated and apparently lifeless seeds into living plants. I know also that He brings about this change by providing for interaction of certain "natural" agents: soil, water, and sun (warmth).

He (Allah) it is, again, who later causes the plants to mature and bear whatever their intrinsic genetic properties demand of them — fruit berries or flower buds. Exactly how this divine process (of procreation) works,

I simply do not know—nor can I possibly duplicate it.

However, I need not be a scientist, a doctor or a botanist to appreciate the marvelous mission of the U.S. Muslim leader, Honorable Elijah Muhammad. True, it has its baffling (unorthodox) aspects, but my own inability to grasp them cannot minimize the movement's significance. Nor, I'm certain, can it affect or alter the God-inspired nature of his "Message." Moreover, the result of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's teachings and work is fully manifest, requiring no particular aids or contraptions to view it:

FROM CALIFORNIA to the eastern seaboard of the United States, there are today three-score or more religious edifices bearing the nameplate reading **MUHAMMAD'S MOSQUE OF ISLAM**. More important than that — there are thousands of black men, women and children who regard and utilize these buildings as centers of learning and of spiritual growth and development.

To many Muslims, the Mosque is a building where "ignorant Negro Christians" come to shed the three elements believed to bar their progress as a people: Ignorance (mental slavery), "white Christianity" (which promises the black man in America everything up in

heaven but nothing here on earth) and unwarranted attachment to the meaningless term "Negro."

To many others, it is a "point of departure"—where a black man leaves his dead, fickle past and enters a promising future. It goes without saying that often a black "man" is "nothing" before entering the Mosque. In due course of time, however, he emerges from it as "nothing but a man."

A MUHAMMAD'S Mosque of Islam also prepares its members to see the Hereafter — when they shall enter Paradise and meet their Maker (Allah). For the followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad — who must conduct themselves in life in total righteousness — there is no Hell. "The fires of Hell rage to consume the devils and those deceived by him," says the Muslim leader.

The Mosques further serve as "Muhammad's Health Institutes" — where Muslims learn, in elaborate detail, how to double or even treble their life's "normal" span. (Many Muslims in ancient times lived to be 200 or 300 years old. Many — in Pakistan, Iran and other lands of western and central Asia — still live well past the 100-year mark.) It is thus a fact that while the "devil's dupes" literally devour drink, "dope up," dance or even "drive" themselves to death, the healthy, able-bodied Muslims often keep Heaven waiting!

SOUNDS incredible? The "Message" of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is nevertheless "for real." Besides, despite its slightly baffling aspect, I am convinced that somehow it works!