

It Is Absurb to Think the "Devil" Can Turn Muslim!

By Abdul Basit Naeem
(Continued from Last Week)

I am aware that no Caucasian claiming to be a "Muslim," however impressive his manner of approach or whatever the nature of his credentials, can possibly get past the door of a Muhammad's Mosque of Islam in America. In the eyes of the U.S. Muslim leader, Honorable Elijah Muhammad, a "devil" is a "devil" — and that's that!

However, I think we all recognize the fact that an "Eastern" or East-oriented so-called "orthodox" Islamic group in this country is not likely to categorically reject him.

THE LEBANESE Syrian, Albanian or Tartar Muslims,



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for instance — and there are quite a few of them across this land — may rather joyously receive such a person, though not necessarily as a full-fledged, bona fide brother-

in-Islam. Fundamentally, they would welcome the visitor under obsession of an age-old "national" tradition — of unrestrained, "open-door" hospitality.

Moreover, the "copper-colored" Muslims (as the Honorable Messenger sometimes describes them), who possess a long history of commercial and cultural contact with the "Old World" nations (of Europe) and have, generally speaking, never experienced racial discrimination or segregation in the "New World" (America), really have no valid cause to doubt and disbelieve a Caucasian (self-styled) convert's earnestness of interest in our sacred faith.

IT IS no mystery why the "devils" have rarely, if ever, mistreated, and do not even now mistreat, the foreign-origin Muslims in their midst. They simply do not SEE them as Muslims! After all, how can they distinguish them from the mainstream of the Great Society?

Aside from being "copper-colored" (i.e., light-complexioned), the Lebanese, Syrian, Albanian or Tartar Muslims living in the United States

do not, as a rule, use "odd" (Arabic) but common Anglo-Saxon (white Christian) names, such as Bob, Joe, Dick, Jim, etc.

They wear the same type of clothes as the white Americans do.

They do not look down upon dancing, makeup or smoking. While they do not themselves consume forbidden foods, I have known them to sell pork and pork products and alcoholic beverages in their grocery stores and serve similar items in luncheonettes, restaurants and bars owned or operated by them.

"BARS, did you say?" ... Yes, that's right. As a matter of fact, I know of several "Eastern" Muslims in this country who even own liquor stores and nightclubs (or, at least, part interest in such establishments.) I might further add that, being "good" American citizens all, they do not object to fighting in behalf of Uncle Sam either.

Small wonder, then, that the "orthodox" Muslim elements here should be at a loss to understand what the

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all-black "Nation of Islam in America" is all about. Aloof and removed as they are from the U.S. black man's (or so-called "Negro's") problems, they naturally cannot comprehend or appreciate the solution of those problems — which is precisely what the "unorthodox" message and mission of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad comprises.

I ALSO wonder, now, that

if such (as above) be the mental state or attitude of American Muslims who are not really "white" but maybe "white-like" (i.e. "copper-colored"), can we honestly consider a genuine "devil" to be capable of transforming his very nature and hence deserving of permission to join the ranks of the righteous (Muslims)?

I think the question is inestimably absurd and unworthy of further consideration.