

MUHAMMAD SPEAKS

**Death Sentence:**

# **'A Believer in Prayer'**

**By A Prisoner Under Death Sentence**

As one Black inmate here in the Walpole State Prison, not far from Boston, Massachusetts, I have placed much value on the prayers as taught by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the Divine Messenger from Almighty God Allah, Who came in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom praise is due forever.

LEARNING the Muslim prayers, the significance of the prayers, and the manner of washing before going into prayer, is most enjoyable. Rehabilitation sets in when I study, in detail, the contents and meanings of the prayers. One can easily see and understand that these prayers are

fitting to the conditions of our people. Also, they guide us to seek Divine assistance on the things of need, in the upliftment of our people.

From the prayer's ingredients I can see my understanding in the past lacked the insights on the proper way to give respect to the Divine Supreme Being. As a Christian, I never washed my face and hands, etc., before each time of positioning myself for prayer. Neither did I ever consider its importance. Besides that, the only time I had set aside for praying was on a weekly basis (Sunday mornings).

NOW, AS a true Believer in Islam, and under the guidance of the Messenger of Allah, I have learned much in the proper way of giving respect to the Divine Supreme Being, Whose proper name is Allah, in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom praise is due forever.

Time being the impressive thing in observing the methods of praying, taught by the Messenger, the sequences of (5) prayers a day, are outstanding in my mind daily.

Time (the subject itself), is the concern of every man being imprisoned. But bathing myself with the words of Wisdom, coming from the Messenger of Allah, the subject of Time is based on what time the total population is in, in regards to the coming wrath of the Lamb (in Revelations) and the Power of Allah upon the disobedient. My concern lies not in what the judge and jury have before said about time—but what God's words are, about time.

THE EXISTING pressures and ill-influences of this society have filled these prison walls full of the Black man, who fell victim to such influences. Islam reeducates, dignifies, and, in general, rehabilitates the Black inmates. Even though the state officials outline means and methods to align the inmate into a good rating, no program or combination of programs surpasses the gains ISLAM makes on the Black inmate.

Men who, in the past, placed no values on prayers, altered their opinions once taking inter-

est in the Prayer Service of Islam, being explained by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. The teachings of the reality of God lend great support to the gaining of understanding the purpose of praying and its benefits.

Men, whose faces were dull in appearance and minds burdened with individual thoughts, are now being seen in a different light of activities. Their faces bright and shining; their walking more dignified; their approach to each other is now with smiles and greetings of peace. And many times you can see books of educational standards under their armpits.

Yes Sir, All praise is due to Allah, Who came in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom praise is due forever. We thank Him for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad who has been chosen to be our Leader, Teacher and Spiritual Guide—one who is so badly needed by us, in this world of spiritual darkness. It is he, who guides us onto the Path of Righteousness—the Divine rehabilitator—"Prayer is better than sleep."

