

THE BLACK AMER

(Editor's Note: This article is reprinted by popular request from the May 24, 1968 edition of Muhammad Speaks. The great wisdom contained in this illuminating article by Messenger Muhammad, has stood the measure of time, as though it were written just this morning.)

And yet, in the five years since this article was written The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has brought into reality for us, a truly great BANK FOR THE BLACK MAN.—The Guaranty Bank and Trust Co., 68th St. at S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago, Illinois—though the wealthy of our kind have yet to come forward and help Him.

LET US NOT wait another five years before we recognize the wisdom of Messenger Muhammad's Divine Leadership for us.)

By Elijah Muhammad
Messenger of Allah

According to statistics there are between 20 and 30 million of us, the people who are members of the Original Black people of our earth. This census of our people here in America means that we are a Nation. We are no longer a few people to be sold on blocks from one plantation owner to another.

We are a Nation that should be dusting off the slave dust from our "new educational garments." But there are so many of us who refuse to whisk this dust off our educated brains and stand up like other men of other nations to strengthen and preserve our Nation.

WE MUST think of providing for ourselves. And this means to take our place as the provider for our many millions of people. We have not taken the responsibility of trying to do any economically worthwhile work for ourselves.

Suppose the whole earth was given to us to operate for our own benefit. It would soon go back into the previous owner's hands, because of our carelessness in doing something for self.

The white man has done a bad and a good job for us. The good job is giving us a chance at education. You do not have equal education with them, but you have enough to go for self. We have many, I would say, proud educational figures in America. What is lacking here in the educated figure is the knowledge of self (his kind), and other than his kind. This is all he needs now, to master the key to his own, with tens and hundreds of millions of dollars that the wealthy among us have turned over to the white man to use for themselves for only a few nickels of interest.

YOU COULD use those hundreds of millions of dollars that you have in the banks of white people for your own,

instead of allowing them to use it to build what they want for themselves.

As I said in this paper a few years ago, let us build a Black bank.

You would have a mighty strong bank, if you would take your money that you now have in the white man's bank and put it in your own bank, you would be surprised at the powerful and wonderful things you could do for yourself with that money.

THIS WAY of thinking that the white man owes it to you to care for you and think for you is slavery thinking. No nation will take your responsibilities, then allow you to enjoy equal freedom, justice and equality with them if you do not have anything for yourself. This is actually the general law of nature.

We cannot say to our superiors "you step down and be like me," as long as they are able to stay up where they are and we stay down where we are. This will never happen. The man who is down must pull himself up. The greatest desire of my followers and I is to see the Black man in America doing something for self and staying off his knees begging others to do that for him which he can do for himself.

With a population of 20 or 30 million people, we cannot depend on anyone but God and ourselves to help ourselves.

Who wants to take the responsibilities for 20 or 30 million people, to feed, clothe and provide jobs for them without them doing anything by way of being a creative people in the midst of a creative people? We must remember that we have been here in the Western Hemisphere 400 years. We have not built anything here for ourselves, after 100 years up from slavery.

OUR GREATEST trouble is that we like to be disunited (which is our destruction). Unity of the Black man in America is self-strength and stability.

Let me tell you how to use your money or let me use it for you. By the Help of Allah, I would use your money and set you in heaven at once. Just loan me your millions—no, not your millions, just your hundreds of thousands of dollars—and I

will soon show you that the entire 20 or 30 million people will be living in heaven in a very short while (almost at once).

I know you do not trust me to prove to you that the foregoing words will be true. By our (my followers) hard struggling to try to raise ourselves and others (though you are acting like dead weight, just lying down), we are bound, by the Help of God, to achieve our aims.

Our aims are to do something for self and to get the benefits of doing something for self. We have a program and plan to carry out, designed for nothing but doing something for ourselves and not lying down at the white man's gate, begging him to do that which we can do for ourselves, if we are given a partial chance. Do not be lazy. Be industrious. Seek education—the best of education—wherever you can. Stop being white actors on shows (T.V.) and making public displays of yourselves in ignorant acts to the world, just for a few dollars paid by white audiences.

In this modern time, you should quit being "Uncle Toms" and "Sambos" and take your place as a man equal to man and demand respect of man.

BLACK MAN, you are the first and will be the last, if there be any last. The days of slavery are over, but as long as you are too lazy to go for yourself and try to do something for self, you will forever be a slave for someone who has to care for you.

Black man, wash and be clean, externally and internally. Think of yourself as a decent person. Wash your clothes. If you do not have but one change of clothes, keep them clean and iron them. If you are not able to send them to cleaning and pressing establishments, do it yourself, like "ma" and "pa" used to do just a few years ago, before electric washing machines were invented. Never practice filth and foolish actions and think that you have the respect of others.

BLACK MAN, make your wives and daughters pull down their dresses. It was not your Black wife and yourself who set up these present styles. These indecent

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styles were set up by the white man. Why should you accept the invitation to go half nude just because they go half nude? They are not your people. Their god is not your God, nor your God their god. What right do you have to practice this ignorant stunt? Who wants a daily actor? People want a change sometimes, so they stop going to the same show.

Stop drinking up your money in whiskey, beer and wine, also stop wasting

your money on narcotics (dope). You spend a fortune in these poisons and they finally bring your disgrace and death.

Stop going to ball games, paying high prices for seats. You do not have any time for "sport and play" anyway. That is for the white man, who has built himself a kingdom. You helped him to work and build it with your labor, but you did not build yourself anything, so the sport is for those who are able to afford it.

You do not own one state in the Union. What do you look like wasting your money on millionaire sports?

Brother, Black Man of America, let us unite and put ourselves in the position where we can be respected as a decent and industrious people on this earth, as other nations are doing.

Thank you for reading this article.



The Honorable Elijah Muhammad
Messenger of Allah

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THANK YOU TO MUSLIMS FOR SAVIOUR'S DAY GIFTS

I, thank the Muslims, both nationally and internationally for the great Saviour's Day Gifts to me and to my followers.

I received some of the nicest gifts that I have ever received in my life from my followers, on Saviour's Day. They were the nicest gifts that I have ever received from anyone, in my life.

I received many expensive gifts. At this writing, I have on a shirt that is so expensive—it is the most expensive shirt that I have ever had on my back, in my life! And my back feels odd with such fine shirt on!

I would not have bought such fine shirt, if I had received the money from you. I would not have put the money in that fine a shirt, as the price of the shirt could have bought a suit of clothes, for one, (smile).

I was not born under wealth. I was born a poor man and for God's Sake do not give me such fine things as you gave to me this time...but THANK YOU and THANK YOU and THANK YOU!

THE BEAUTIFUL JEWELS... of which I never did care too much for jewels, but I love the fine and the great jewels which you gave to me, in the way of a Saviour's Day Gift.

AND the suits of clothes that you gave to me. I do not know who slipped and measured me while I was asleep, but whoever measured me, they were expert. O, Brother, I do not know how to thank you....even to socks and ties...it is wonderful!

ALL the way down from dress clothes, to pajamas, to automobiles. What love...I could never forget you as long as I live, for such Saviour's Day Blessing.

WHEN it came to cash...you were so great! I could not imagine you having so much cash to give to me and the Nation's Temples and followers.

But, you did it!

PLEASE do not forget, that I will never forget, that you did one of the most wonderful things that you ever have done, last Saviour's Day!

AND Allah Blessed us with Peace and Security, that the world can say with truth, that Allah Has Visited us to Bring Peace and Salvation to us, from what we experienced of our God, on Feb. 26, 1973.

OUR GOD, Allah, MASTER FARD MUHAMMAD, to Whom Praises are due forever, Showed Forth His Love and Security, for we, a down trodden people, who are hated by the world. We forever Thank Him.

THANK YOU, again and again. We thank you also for helping us with our farms, because the farms are so needed, by us. We need to grow our own food, for we see FAMINE peering over the land.

LET US, do like Joseph (Bible) and save all of the food that we can. And let us pray to Allah (God) to Bless us, to Save us through the many crises of the world!

WE cannot interfere with God's Plan, because as one scripture tells us, 'we cannot make one hair of our head black nor white.' And let us remember again that we cannot make mockery of that which God made with a Purpose, Himself.

My Black Brothers and Black Sisters, our greatest work today is to do something ourselves and stop looking and thinking over what other nations have, and do something in the way of a nation, ourselves.

I THANK you to help to build a Black Nation in the United States of America... one that is industrious enough to do something for ourselves.

GET OUT of laziness! Let us Black People

WORK together as one Black Brother!

MAY Allah's (God's) Peace and Blessings be upon you forever!

THANK YOU TO THE PRISONERS

ONE of the greatest donations that I have received in the way of a Saviour's Day Gift...it is a donation from the prisoners of our kind, who are bound.

I NEVER in my life, thought that prisoners would come up with such help to free Black Brothers and Black Sisters! But, we were given presents out of the prison houses...presents from those who are bound!

NEVERTHELESS, behind the prison walls, the prisoners love Allah (God) and they know that they are Black People who have been lost from their/our own and now they are coming to their own, through the Power of Truth, Freedom, Justice and Equality, from Allah (God) Who Came in the Person of MASTER FARD MUHAMMAD, to Whom Praises are due forever.

MAY WE SERVE and OBEY MASTER FARD MUHAMMAD, to Whom Praises are due forever, so that His Guidance and Power be with us, forever. And never forget to Thank Allah.

I THANK THE F.O.I. and the M.G.T. & G.C.C., for the blessings that they bestowed on me, in gifts.

MAY ALLAH's (God's) Peace and Blessing be upon you forever!

Your Brother
ELIJAH MUHAMMAD
MESSENGER OF ALLAH TO YOU ALL!