

THE DUTY OF THE CIVILIZED MAN

(series continues)
By Bayyinah Sharrieff,
teacher of the M.G.T. & G.C.C.

As I look through a National Geographic magazine, I see pictures of man, and mankind depicting the uncivilized, the civilized and the highly civilized and I reflect on the "Duty of the Civilized Man."

This particular issue scans the history of Scandinavia (Sweden, Demark, and Norway) from their recorded knowledge of its civil beginnings to where it is today. Having spent two months in Scandinavia (in 1966) I was attracted to this article.

The Scandinavians consider their first history as something under a savage leadership. They write of their barbaric ruthless raids (Norsemen, men of the North) of terror on Europe in the 8th Century A.D. and how they destroyed and plundered libraries and sanctuaries. Pictures of their crude instruments and ornaments and weapons are shown.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that a society's degree of civilization and it's achievements in cultural progressiveness are dependent on its leadership. If its leader or teacher is knowledgeable and is wise then there will be a definite marked improvement in the civil acts of his society: The benefits of a civilized leadership is that we can see how it moves a certain civilization to a better

condition and we can measure its degree in civilization by a progressive achievement of the whole society under specified leader.

A leader by simple definition must direct others ahead. One cannot be classified as a leader if that one does not direct others to achieve and accomplish.

If Europe had been under uncivil leadership it definitely would not be as it is today, with a most advanced civil leadership. It might well be in the uncivil state of affairs that Europe herself considers savage.

THE CIVILIZED MAN must make a civilized person out of the uncivilized person; so teaches The Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

The civilized person has a sharper mind than the uncivilized. The uncivilized does not think fast. He has little knowledge of civilization and therefore cannot reflect and compare his sight to acquire and develop vision. He is ashamed when he meets with civilization of his savage conduct and wishes that he could cultivate himself under a civilized teacher. But, his ability to select the best teacher is next to nil, for again his acquired knowledge of a highly civilized guide and leader is lacking and his mind is unable to really differentiate from those present and choose

the correct factors by which to select the best qualified leader.

..This is the condition of my poor Black kind here in America. We admire civilization and are much ashamed of our savage conduct and lack of civil acts and for these 100 years up from slavery we have been trying to pattern ourselves after others whom we thought filled the category of civilized teachers. But, as stated above, our knowledge of civilization and its various degrees was so limited to our immediate environment that we have been unable to differentiate the truly civilized teacher and take him for our leader. We have been selecting and following those unable and incapable of civilizing us due to their own lack of knowledge that we have hardly made any progress for ourselves during this 100 years we have been freed from shackled slavery.

This poor ability to differentiate a truly highly civilized teacher from the masses of lesser civilized persons is the reason that my poor Black people here in the "hells of North America" have not unanimously chosen the Honorable Elijah Muhammad as our one Leader.

The scriptures term us a deaf, blind and dumb people. But this is not to be taken literally so teaches the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. A savage can well be considered as being deaf, blind, and dumb by not understanding that which he hears and sees and feels.

If my people would only look to the 40 years which the Honorable Elijah Muhammad has been teaching civilization to the uncivilized here in America and see the evidence in his followers portraying truly 'civil' acts they would see proofs of our civilizing teacher.

If my people would only listen to the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad for themselves, they would hear words of facts and wisdom which they have not heard from any other source, and reflect on this and come in contact with him and his followers in mass and feel the warmth generated in a sincere love of the Brotherhood which the Honorable Elijah Muhammad has re-created in us, you could not help but know that this is the civilized leader, **THE HONORABLE ELIJAH MUHAMMAD**, who can truly elevate us to that high degree in civilization to be admired by all.

ad met with God

Muhammad has told us and the world that He has met God. We, His followers bear witness that indeed Messenger Muhammad has met God. This event is of such importance and of such magnitude that it overshadows every event that ever took place.

There have been many occurrences in the lives of men and women that have profoundly affected them and permanently altered the course of Nations. But never has anything in the history of men and nations so completely, so deeply and so thoroughly effected a change in the Universe as when

THE HONORABLE ELIJAH MUHAMMAD has shown us that the wise prophets of God did not fail to see the miserable condition of the so-called Negroes in America. That we would be forced into slavery, made spiritually deaf, dumb and blind; that we would be hung, shot to pieces, starved

to death, used as a tool for the masters, and then cast aside on welfare and unemployment lines by the beast-like slavemaster was seen and is recorded in the Bible and Holy Quran.

Again the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that we the so-called Negroes are mentioned in scripture under many parables which are prophecies referring to today. He teaches us the parables of the rich man and Lazarus and the parable of the Dry bones.

Just as Lazarus, the beggar was too lazy to do for himself, so are we the so-called Negroes too lazy to follow a Leader whose utmost desire is to make us a self independent people. As Lazarus begged for the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, so does the so-called Negroes beg for whatever the white man chooses to drop. Today we beg for jobs, housing and money from the slavemaster.