

Duty of the Civilized Man

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(This is the introduction to a series of articles on this most important subject)

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that the duty of a civilized man is to civilize others who are not civilized. He must be held responsible for the uncivilized.

WHAT IS AN uncivilized person? The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that an incivilized person is a savage. He is called savage because he does not know civilization. He is not of civilization himself, and therefore he cannot acquaint us with it because he does not know it. We can therefore use the words that a civilized person must teach the uncivilized person until he knows civilization himself. That is why a fool can always insult a civilized man, but it is hard for the civilized man to insult a fool, when you try insulting him in his foolish bracket, for it is the nature of the fool. You are not hurting him, he cannot feel it. He cannot recognize civilization. The uncivilized man does not know when he is mocked and often times joins in with his mockers to mock self.

THE HONORABLE Elijah Muhammad teaches us that the first step in civilizing an uncivilized person is to teach him the knowledge of himself. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad compares this to a man going into a forest to catch some wild game. When the hunter or man enters the forest, the animals flee and run from him, not giving him a chance to learn if he is friend or foe. Such a man has to be very careful not to make too much noise. After catching

such an animal he must be trained into the civilization that he is brought in; this is commonly called domesticating the animal.

In the teachings we have from Allah through His Messenger, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the habitation of North America is referred to as a wilderness. This means a wild untamed, uncivilized area. And like the dumb animals of a forest, our people scatter and run, not giving ear to the words of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, not even taking a good look at him. To show that he is dealing with an uncivilized people, instead of them running to him, they are running from him. The same thing happened with Noah when he was trying to warn the people. The Holy Quran says that they ran from him trying to stop their hearing by putting their fingers in their ears.

THE CIVIL person knows his own civilization. He knows self. We Black people here in the wilderness of North America did not know self until the Honorable Elijah Muhammad began his civilizing process of teaching us knowledge of self in the late summer of 1931.

"An uncivilized person must be civilized by a civilized person to set at liberty the ignorance out of his ignorance," so teaches the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

What qualities therefore must the civilized person have to civilize the uncivilized?

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