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# Education, a Muslim success story

*"As far as playing in school, we do not have time to play games. Education is a serious business."*

By Nathaniel 10X

CHICAGO — There are 51 Muhammad Universities of Islam in the United States. They are based in every major city in the country, and can be found in cities as remote as Portland, Ore., or Jackson, Miss.

WITH HEADQUARTERS in the center of the middlewest, at Chicago's Temple No. 2, this university complex stands on the threshold of unprecedented growth.

As the educational system of the United States suffers from decay, corruption and chaos, this master idea in alternative education for Black children stands as a clear example of success.

Founded by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad in the very early 'thirties' when the mere word Islam was strange to the ears of Black people, the University of Islam is now firmly rooted in every major city and stands as a shining example of what Black people can do in the field of

education with good leadership and the determination to stand up for themselves.

From the very beginning, the white authorities tried diligently to destroy the University by arresting the Messenger and his followers on various trumped-up charges.

The first school related arrests took place in April, 1934, in Detroit, and later in 1935, in Chicago. The so-called charge in Detroit was "contributing to the delinquency of a minor" — this was leveled because the Muslims refused to send their children to white schools.

In both incidents the Muslims were attacked outright by the police. "They wanted to school our children," Mr. Muhammad writes in *Message to the Blackman in America*. "They wanted them to go to their public schools."

"WE REFUSED to let the children take their first courses in public schools, although the high-school children in their upper teens could do

so. But let us shape our children first," he wrote.

What makes the University of Islam different from other Black schools? According to National Directress of Education Sister Dr. Debra Fayzah (Sc.D.) Islam as taught by Messenger Muhammad is the difference. "We are being taught the truth rather than superstition and theory that have no supportive evidence."

Another difference in Muhammad University is the early training that students are given in the good qualities of the Black man.

"All our studies are related to the Black man and his interest in the growth and development of the universe," Dr. Fayzah says. "Therefore," she concluded, "all our studies are Black studies."

"WE STRESS SELF development, always, which is Islam — to give true knowledge of our heritage rather than the comparative low ignorance as we were taught by white people.

"The Messenger has elevated our knowledge of our cultural background, and when we present to our students this background it breeds a personal security in their work that is bound to lead to success," Dr. Fayzah pointed out.

Dr. Fayzah indicated that since she was appointed to her present position, less than three years ago, the University has grown from 14 schools to 51, under the guidance of the Messenger. The growth is so rapid, she said, that even at this time, "a proposal for the establishment of another university could be in the mail."

According to Brother Karriem Allah, one of the long-time followers of Mr. Muhammad, when the Messenger and the F.O.I. returned from imprisonment in 1945 and 46, the attempts to wipe out Islam might have seemed successful to white people — there were only three Temples and school was being taught house-to-house.

THE GROWTH did not come immediately. Minister James Shabazz Dean of Boys at University No. 2, pointed out.

"The Messenger would not okay the establishment of schools outside of Chicago in the early years, primarily because most of the Temples did not have adequate meeting places, and there were no qualified teachers, two factors that must be satisfied before a school can be opened," Minister Shabazz said.

Another reason for the miracle growth of the University is the spiraling acceptance of the Messenger's teachings by educated Blacks in recent years.

IN THE AREA of higher education Muhammad University's plans are extensive, according to Dr. Fayzah. She recently received a proposal for the establishment of a college in Washington, D.C.



ARABIC CLASS is one of the advanced education courses which Muslim children master while still in primary grades. Here, students and teacher learn a lesson in Arabic.