

If you would ponder

By Anna Karriem

Part I & II

We can agree that a wise person will ponder or mentally weigh the significance or outcome of an act or decision before he puts it into effect. A dressmaker considers the form of the person for whom she is making the dress, the type of fabric, and the design she wishes to create. The building engineer must consider the area of the land as well as the topography of the land (physical features) on which he desires to build in order to avoid possibly laying a foundation in soil that is subject to erosion from water pressure and other elements of nature.

He takes into consideration the building design, materials, and weight of the building materials per unit of measurement on the foundation before he begins his work. The scriptures further direct us toward that which is intelligent: "Ponder the path of thy feet and let all thy ways be established." Prov. 4:26.

So it is with leadership, if the Black Man and Woman of America fails to ponder the doctrine contained in the multitude of speeches that are so prevalent today, they are subject to be misled.

Of the speeches that have been presented by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Messenger of Allah, there are those who say that the Messenger is not eloquent in speech. 'Eloquence' is defined as "fluent, polished and effective use of language or the quality of being moving, forceful, or persuasive in speech." In order to arrive at the conclusion that one has listened to an eloquent speaker, the background of the speaker, his position among the people, the tone of voice, his arrangement of words and the concreteness of his wisdom is considered and weighed by the listener in terms of their relevance to his condition in life as well as the degree to which the speaker's wisdom will help him to attain his personal aspirations.

Many speeches and quotations of the past have been lifted up and praised by the white man as excellent examples of oration and eloquence to be admired and adhered to by Black people.

When Germany became a threat to America's power in 1918, a Black man Dr. W.E. Dubois wrote in an editorial "Let us, while this war lasts, forget our special grievances and close our ranks shoulder to

shoulder with our own white fellow citizens and the allied nations that are fighting for democracy." The United States War Department thought well of this Black Man's advice to his people but, Dubois failed to indicate that the "Special Grievances" of Black People were that they were tired of being lynched, jailed, burned out of their homes, discriminated against, and mistreated in the armed forces. Yet, many say Dubois was 'Eloquent.'

Revered as a forceful speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King openly taught that "nonviolence is a willingness to accept suffering without retaliation, to accept blows from the opponent without striking back...The answer is found in the realization that unearned suffering is redemptive." Have you ever thought about who it was that said Martin Luther King was a forceful speaker? The answer is the very man who inflicted force upon the followers of Dr. Martin L. King who believed that it was proper to take mistreatment from the white man. Yet Dr. Martin Luther King was considered 'eloquent' in speech.

As Stokely Carmichael and other S.N.C.C. leaders travelled around the country delivering speeches to angry young Black People he said, "The question is, how can white society begin to move to see Black people as human beings? I am Black, therefore I am. Not that I am Black and I must go to College to prove myself. I am Black, therefore I am" I am What? Messenger Muhammad says therefore you are original, Black Man, the maker, owner and God of the Universe; the first man to emerge out of triple darkness. Yet, Stokely Carmichael is considered to be a persuasive speaker.

If you would ponder, the above examples show that these Black Men who said that they were striving for the common good of Black People, have divergent ideas for attaining that good. How can a house divided against itself stand?

Black People, especially the Intellectual class, are fond of using the definitions of white people to determine the worth of a Black Man. Black People studying in white educational institutions are systematically taught what constitutes "approved" and "eloquent" speech.

(to be continued)

By Sister Anna Karriem
Part II

If a speaker is gifted with the use of metaphors, similes, allegory, and personification coupled with anger or emotionalism then he is deemed 'Eloquent'. If the speaker is able to sway the actions of massive numbers of people in behalf of the ruling class so as to pacify the emotions of desperate and oppressed people, then he is held in high esteem by the people in power and considered the greatest leader ever to come out of the ranks of the oppressed.

IF THE SPEAKER ceases to become useful to the ruling class doctrine of government and is miraculously killed while delivering one of his "approved" and "eloquent" speeches, then all of his previous orations are put on display for the mourning oppressed to view and remember the great leadership that they have lost.

History teaches us that every great government has risen up on the faith, love and hardwork of the unlearned masses because the minds of the so-called 'educated people' were so preoccupied with the thoughts, actions and schooling of the ruling class of people.

BLACK PEOPLE were recently granted permission to speak among and in the presence of white people less than one hundred years ago when Booker T. Washington delivered a speech in 1895 in Atlanta, Georgia where he assured the white man that he had nothing to fear from the Black Man being educated in the South.

"... You can be sure in the future, as in the past, that you and your families will be surrounded by the most patient, faithful, law-abiding, and unresentful people that the world has seen. As we have proved our loyalty to you in the past, in nursing your children, watching by the sick-bed of your mothers and fathers, and often following them

with tear dimmed eyes to their graves...."

WE BLACK people who do not 'watch by the sick-bed' of white people should easily see why Washington was allowed to make

this 'eloquent' speech in a previously segregated gathering.

Since all examples of eloquence were handed to Black People by the white man, then whose definition of 'eloquence' is being used to charge

the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Messenger of Allah with a lack of 'eloquence'?

The scriptures teach us of the coming of a man called Elijah who would speak with authority (Mark 1:22) and further states of him that "Never man spake like this man." (Jn. 7:46)

How can you compare the speech mannerism of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Messenger of Almighty God Allah with present or past orations when no man has ever spoken in a like manner? Though 'eloquence' is applied to the speaking ability of a person: what would you critics say of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad when he ceases to speak and begins to laugh?

HIS LAUGHTER on the rostrum brings as great an ovation as his speaking. When a Messenger of God's laughter brings joy to his audience, what do you think the power of his words will do?

Moses did not think that he was 'eloquent' of tongue but, God promised Moses that "I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." Ex. 4:10. Moses obeyed God and was exalted in wisdom, for God said, "See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh:" Ex. 7:1.

Moses was exalted over the hard and rebellious rulership of Pharaoh because he did what God told him to do rather than listen to the dictates of the people.

THE HONORABLE Elijah Muhammad is the Anti-type of Moses and he will be successful by God's definition of Eloquence.

Despite your criticism of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, I have been Blessed to hear him say that "there is not a Black Man or Woman anywhere that I do not love." Let us learn to listen to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's words before we judge him unfairly.

To 'listen' to a person is to make conscious use of the sense of hearing in order to learn and be informed. To simply 'hear' the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is merely to perceive sound which means you were still totally unconscious to the Wisdom he was imparting. If you would ponder these things, surely Allah will grant you the light of understanding.

THE TEACHING of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is raising up a Divine Nation of Islam backed by Almighty God Allah, to Whom Praises are due forever. Messenger Muhammad's words have taken the learned and unlearned and exalted them in Wisdom and Prosperity. This is **DIVINE ELOQUENCE.**

Don't continue to wait on the white man to say that Messenger Muhammad is 'eloquent' because this will never happen. The Words of the Messenger teach the Black Man that which will bring his salvation and the fall of the white man.

MY BELOVED Black Brothers and Sisters, it would be wise of you to ponder the definition of 'Eloquence' once again. May Allah Bless you Dear Holy Apostle.