

The early days of the Messenger's Mission: 'The Glorious Past'

By Brother Karriem Allah
Temple No. 2

CHICAGO — Our first meeting with the Messenger, the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, was held on August 3, 1933, on the Westside of Chicago.

The Messenger of Allah, the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, found in us who were present at that first meeting, enough unity to set up the first Temple of Islam in Chicago (Temple No. 2).

Before he dismissed us, he asked us to take a vote with him on where we wanted a Temple — the Southside or Westside of Chicago. We chose the Southside because there were more Black people on the Southside than the Westside.

We thought the Messenger could get more converts to Islam from the heavily populated area. All those present at this first meeting with the Messenger, however, were from the Westside.

The actual Temple organization was set up in our first meeting with Messenger Muhammad, at 3335 South State St. It was fully established one week later.

Upon leaving the meeting early that first Monday morning (2:30 a.m. to be exact) the Messenger instructed us to meet him at the South State St. locations the following Sunday which was Aug. 10, 1933.

We were there at 12 noon awaiting the arrival of the Messenger. He arrived at 2 P.M. He had come all the way from Temple No. 1 in Detroit, Mich. The first meeting held at Temple No. 2 on State Street was conducted by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. A large crowd of people

had already gathered to greet the Messenger upon his arrival.

After he entered the Temple we filed quietly in behind him, in this building that was to be our first Temple.

It was a standing room only crowd. Those who could sit down, sat down. Others stood all around the walls to hear the life giving Truth coming from the mouth of our beloved Leader and Teacher and Guide, the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

We had a glorious time in our first meeting, in our first Temple with our Divinely Missioned Teacher, Missioned from Allah — Who Came to the wilderness of North America in the Person of Master W.D. Fard to Whom Praise is due forever for giving to us the lost and found members of the aboriginal Black Nation the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. May the peace and blessings of Allah abide with Him.

An echo from the past, the early days of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's mission, the glorious past.

Dear brothers and sisters, as the Messenger would say in closing his lectures to us, think five times before speaking and maybe you will be right. He didn't say we would be right. Think before speaking. Again he would say to us whatever you do use a good judgement and let no one cause you to loose your reward.

Your reward is your life, your life is sacred, teaches the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Keep a cool temper.

May the peace and blessings of Allah abide with you all dear brothers and sisters. I am truly one of your brothers.

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By Karriem Allah
Temple No. 2
Part I

CHICAGO—Times were hard in the early days of the Messenger's mission. Jobs were few and there was very little money in circulation. But, if one could make a little money, he could support his family well. We gave our nickels, dimes, quarters and half-dollars to the noble cause of Islam. We were happy to do this.

Everything was cheap. Food was priced at its lowest ever. My wife and I used to feed our family off of 25 cents per day.

"A dollar was worth one hundred pennies, it was 'In God we Trust.'" It

was the God of the white man's world.

In those days, the early days of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's mission, street car fare was only seven cents. We ate well.

It's different today. Food is high, almost out of reach of the poor man's pocketbook. There is a food shortage today plus an inflationary dollar, therefore, "In God we Trust" (the dollar) is going down the drain. Its power over other nations' currency no longer exists.

The Messenger taught us to give to charity and we gave all that we could. We never thought we gave enough to the cause of Islam. We always wanted

to give more.

The Messenger set up the school at Temple No. 2 (The University of Islam No. 2), and we all went to school—young and old.

We were instructed by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad to get busy and study. It was a joy and a pleasure to go to a Muslim school, staffed by Muslim teachers. We learned our "own" very fast.

We were given assignments, Lesson No. 1, The Messenger's first lesson from Allah. We were also given English Lesson No. C-1, the Problem Book, and the Forty Questions. We were instructed by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad to study these lessons until we were able to memorize these lessons, and this we

did.

The spirit of Allah is in these lessons. If we want the spirit of Allah to dwell in us, let us, dear brothers and sisters, go back to our lessons, this is our first work.

In the early days of the Messenger's mission, Allah gave the Messenger these lessons. The Messenger gave them to us, the Muslims. We are studying his lessons.

It is an honor to have the privilege of studying the lessons that Allah (God) gave to this worthy and Honorable man, a holy man, a divine man, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. We should take pride in our lessons. They will lift our spirit.

(to be continued)

By Bro. Karriem Allah
Temple No. 2
Part III

In the early days of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's Mission, we the Muslims gave the Messenger our undivided attention. We were quiet and peaceful; we came to the Temple to listen and learn, not to shout and yell in the Temple during the course of the Messenger's lecture.

The Muslims were not noisy in the Temple, we respected the Honorable Elijah Muhammad; we conducted ourselves in a manner becoming Muslims.

The Muslims soon learned the Messenger was not a common man. We learned we were in the presence of a Divine man who came to us from the face of the Divine Supreme Being, whose proper name is Allah, Who came to the wilderness of North America seeking the Messenger.

He never showed a sign of being tired or weakening from those long hours of teaching us.

He never took as much a drink of water during all this time he was with us. We were as thirsty for this Supreme Wisdom as a camel was for water after he had journeyed across the hot desert. He who drinks of this water (Wisdom) need thirst no more.

In listening to the Messenger, we learned that he was a man of high morals and dignity, preparing we the Muslims for the new world of Islam.

He, himself, was setting a moral example for we the Muslims to enter that new world of righteous lost brothers of Asia—the Black man, said the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

The Messenger taught we the Muslims—Allah taught him a little over three years, day and night. Allah, he said, gave him fifteen minutes recess; he said to us that Allah poured out the Wisdom on him and he poured out the Wisdom on we the Muslims.

He would teach us long hours—from 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoon until 2 or 3 a.m., Monday morning. He would give we the Muslims fifteen minutes recess. He would say to us, "Don't go away, I have much to tell you." No one would leave; we were with him until he