

Cites Harlem Mosque Reconstruction as Proof of 'Muslims' Progress, Property'

By Abdul Basit Naeem

In an essay entitled, "Let's Build Worthy Mosque in Harlem," printed in this space about two years ago I had stated: "... The awesome end of the Harlem Mosque — obviously at the hands of a bedeviled arsonist — is an incident that simply could not have occurred in an all-Muslim or Muslim-majority community..."

"... The Muslims here are not, at least for now, in supreme authority or masters of their destiny. They lack the power to pursue and apprehend the culprits and to punish those responsible for the open desecration of the



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Harlem mosque according to the laws laid out (by Allah Himself) in the Holy Qur-an..."

"At the same time," my essay continued, "I believe it is imperative that we avoid indulgence in continuously brooding over the tragedy and in trying to figure out 'if' or 'how' it could have been averted... What we need to do, and must do, without delay, is to get on with the task of rebuilding

the gutted and destroyed mosque..."

To this I had added: "The Honorable Elijah Muhammad is prepared and will, without doubt, do all in his power to help with the project..."

It is with great pleasure and gratification that I now record here that, after much unexpected delay resulting from complex legal and related problems (such as those emanating from the city building, water and fire departments' requirements and restrictions), the New York Mosque is at last undergoing reconstruction and indeed — Allah willing — should be ready for occupancy and normal utilization within the next two or three months.

The new mosque, of course, will appear quite different from the old one and may well "dominate" a large section of Harlem around 116th Street and Lenox Avenue. Its bright, golden-sunshine tinted glass windows already provide a cheerful vista in an otherwise (admittedly) "drab" area. A large functional dome (not yet erected) atop the building should be visible to area residents in general and those driving on Lenox Avenue in particular from a sizable distance.

Another feature of the new

mosque worthy of note here is the fact that, beside being a religious edifice, the building will also house the nucleus of a future EDUCATIONAL CENTER for the entire Harlem community. It will thus outstrip all similar structures in the area in both significance and purpose.

I think it is further deserving of mention here that the Muslim followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad will occupy the new building not as tenants, as was the case previously, but as full-fledged, rightful owners of the property. (All praises are due to Allah!) Mosque No. 7 thus will stand as a monument to Muslim determination and perseverance as well as a symbol of Muslims' progress and prosperity.

In conclusion, I would like to state that while we all must thank the Honorable Elijah Muhammad for his kind initiative and inestimably generous support of the Mosque No. 7 rebuilding program (whose overall cost will definitely exceed the \$1,000,000 mark), we should not overlook the genuine enthusiasm and ample aid lent to the effort by Harlemites themselves — Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

As for the U.S. Muslim

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leader's own appreciation of the local community's cordial and warm response to his appeal for help in the

matter, I believe the "Little Lamb" already has expressed a "thousand times," through in an extraordinary way.

I happen to know that during the past few months the Honorable Elijah Muhammad has vastly expanded or strengthened a number of Muslim - directed endeavors aimed ultimately at achieving freedom, justice and equality for the 22 million American (so-called) Negroes.

To me, this is proof that the Messenger is both aware and appreciative of his people's acclaim and concern for his mission and work. A true man of God always acts that way: The better the people respond to his call, the more he strives to serve and assist them in every way he can!

We Thank Allah

and His Messenger the Honorable Elijah Muhammad for blessing us.



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