

## Explains Importance of and Reasons for Ignoring Muhammad's Critics

By Abdul Basit Naeem

I am writing this week's column in response to a letter I recently received from a Muslim brother in Pensacola, Fla. The letter suggested that I comment in this space on a memorandum sent to the brother—a member of the "Nation of Islam" in America, headed by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad—by a "representative of another, different Muslim movement" living in Pittsburgh, Penn.

THE memorandum, which he had forwarded to me and which I have since carefully studied, questions certain salient features of the U.S. Muslim leader's teachings and philosophy.



Naeem

Although I am forever eager to do my duty in defending the cause of Islam in America, I regret to inform my brother in Florida that I shall not answer the memorandum under reference. I will, of course, ex-

plain the basis of my decision in this matter.

First of all, I do not wish to publicly comment on a document issued by another Muslim group because so doing might perchance give rise to a speculation (especially among our non-Muslim friends) that we, the Muslims, have nothing better to do than to engage in unnecessary controversies or debate with one another.

SURELY, IN theory, our beliefs and dogmas constitute an important part of our faith. It is nevertheless, in the final analysis, our ACTIONS—how we lead our daily life and conduct ourselves in normal, everyday affairs—that distinguish us as "Allah's (righteous) people" and make us the true adherents of Islam.

Indulgence in arguments or discussion of issues that bear little or no relevance to our individual day-to-day existence as Muslims must therefore be deemed an extravagance and hence avoided.

Second, I happen to know a great deal about the Muslim organization which issued the said memorandum. It is not an orthodox ("Sunni") group—in which case

its critique would certainly call for due and proper attention from this writer—and numerically it comprises but an insignificant fraction of the vast worldwide Islamic populace.

AS A MATTER of fact, the movement, which originated in India during the British rule 80 or 90 years ago and was the recipient of considerable overt British (European) support during its initial stages of development, commands little esteem, if any, in the eyes of Islamdom's top political, religious and cultural leaders. Its appraisal of the American Muslim movement or any aspects of its leader's doctrine must therefore be held ineffectual and inconsequential—and consequently undeserving of serious treatment in this space.

Now, of course, the opinions expressed above are entirely my own. As my readers are well aware, while I am privileged to contribute to MUHAMMAD SPEAKS' columns, my writings printed therein do not comprise or reflect the official views of the "Nation of Islam" in America. How-

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# Why Islam Ignores Critics

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ever, I must point out that my views here are at least partly based on the U.S. Muslim leader's own advice given to me some years ago.

"IT IS immaterial if the Muslims of various lands or of the orthodox school of thought understand me or not," I distinctly remember the Honorable Elijah Muhammad telling me at the time. "With our totally unique background (of centuries of the worst form of human slavery) and history of (untold) suffering and humiliation at the hands of a people the world has not previously known to be the 'real devils' . . . it will take them some time to recognize my divine work."

"Meanwhile," I further recall the venerable Messenger advising me, in complete earnestness, "we cannot waste time . . . We must obey every commandment of Allah (God) and continue, come what may, with our job of rescuing His (righteous) people—the 22 million American so-called 'Negroes'—from under the devils' domination and wicked rule."

"If a few of our brothers, especially those in this wilderness, do not agree with us or care to follow our program," the Honorable Messenger had further

added, "we just won't argue or bicker with them.

"IN FACT, we'll completely ignore them—though we shall not tolerate wilful or repeated attempts at creating confusion and hypocrisy among the believers . . . In time, even the most skeptic will realize and bear witness that I alone hold the Divine Key (God's own Final Solution) to the American black man's problems . . ."

## Aged Need Aid

GENEVA — The aging of a man can often be measured better by the degree of his solitude than by the state of his arteries, a Swiss mental health specialist said recently.

DR. J. P. JUNOD told an international meeting on community psychiatry that being deprived of family life can be an "important" factor in the decline of the aged.

"We must not forget," he said, "that the solitude of most aged people is not of their choice but it is imposed on them in their later years by events."

DR. JUNOD said the "best solution" was to assure that the aged receive the aid they required in their own homes.

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