

Islam in Tuskegee

By Sister Anna Karrelm
(Mosque No. 5)

What is religion? Is it an entity of one's life or is it one's way of life? These are questions that many of the Black students on the Tuskegee Institute campus have failed to resolve within themselves.

I ENGAGED in conversation with a Catholic student who expressed admiration for the work of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad and his Muslim followers. However, she felt that the Catholic faith was best for her even though she said that she did not believe in all of the principles of Catholicism. As I listened to her, I found it difficult to understand how anyone could partially believe in principles that govern their lives. If one allows a principle to govern his life then he is admitting a total belief in that principle.

My beloved leader and teacher, the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, teaches us that Islam is the natural religion of the Black Man and Woman; and that it agrees with the very nature of the Black people.

Moreover, any religious principles accepted by Black people other than those of the religion of Islam prove to be contrary to their nature. As evidence of the fact that Islam is the only way of life for the beloved Black man and woman, the sister who believed in Catholicism admitted that all of the principles did not agree with the way of life she desired. This type of statement from Christians is not uncommon on the Tuskegee campus because many of them are searching for

the credentials necessary for making themselves men and women. Christianity does not offer such credentials to Black people.

ROMAN CATHOLICS trace their beginning back to a conversation between Jesus and Peter as reported in Matthew 16: 17-19. According to this passage Jesus made Peter the foundation of the Church, i.e. the first Pope and it is said that this passage proves that Jesus established the Catholic Church.

In accord with the history of Catholicism seven sacraments are administered to members of the church as a means of giving them strength and guidance and are thought to be symbols of God's grace. The sacrament of Baptism is given to remove the guilt of Original Sin and any sins committed up to the time of Baptism. The sacrament of Confirmation is given in order to bestow the blessings of a holy spirit, which helps the person to renew his intention and courage to follow God's will, as interpreted by the Church. The sacrament of Eucharist is performed in remembrance of a last meal Jesus had with his disciples. Lastly, the sacrament of Penance enables the Catholic to be forgiven of his recent sins, to confess to a priest, and to obtain forgiveness from the priest.

The Catholic further performs a ritual of prayer to Saints believing that these saintly persons lived lives that led to salvation so successfully that they can help others. Mary is considered the Mother of God

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and Jesus, and she is asked by Catholics to pray for them now and in the time of their death. After analyzing these steps to deceit and confusion it is no wonder that my Black sister said she did not agree with all of the principles of Catholicism.

FOR THE SAKE OF truth, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that Jesus was a Muslim and did not teach Christianity for he knew nothing of any such slavery. In addition, Jesus could not have established the Catholic Church or given Peter the authority to rule it because Jesus was a prophet teaching the word of Allah (God) and was sent by Him, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him." John 13:16.

The passages contained in Matthew 16:17-19 referring to the rock upon which a Church will be built are symbolic of Allah (God) and His Messenger, the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad. This powerful rock had hewed from it a stone which is symbolic of Allah sending His Messenger, the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, upon whom Allah has placed the task of raising the mentally dead so-called Negro. That stone is backed and protected by Allah and unrighteousness will not deter his mission: "And Whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on Whomsoever it shall fall it will grind him to powder." Matthew 21:44.

The Baptism practiced in Christian churches is symbolic of Allah's command that the chosen Black man and woman of America must be cleansed of the evil and indecent ways they have learned from their enemy (the white man), and be born again (be taught the knowledge of self,

their true religion and true God).

IF CATHOLIC students would stop a moment to think about the many sacraments they participate in, they would realize that a priest cannot take the place of God. You may say that he is not attempting to do this. I say that any Church or officials of a Church who say that they have been given the authority to govern a people and have not established the proof of this authority are practicing all out deceit, i.e. Pope of the Catholic Church. A Black person who allows a priest to bestow the blessing of a "spirit" upon him and finds it difficult to define this spirit or its origin is practicing self-deceit.

The white man has set himself up as God of the beloved Black Man and Woman. What else can be drawn from such practices as calling oneself "Father." The Honorable Elijah Muhammad says that no one can be the father of the Black Man but himself. All praises are due to Allah for such a great leader

and teacher, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

The practice of confessing to a priest and asking his forgiveness is the most blatant disrespect of Allah (God) I have seen practiced. Of course, the white man has been disrespecting Allah (God) ever since he crawled out of the caves of Europe. How can a Black man or woman seek forgiveness from a white priest whom God has not forgiven for his 4,000 years of sin? If white people want to patronize the Catholic mannerisms, I gladly urge them to do so. However, the Black Brothers who are calling a grafted unnatural organism "father" are giving them an honor due only to themselves for they are the fathers of the white race.

CONSIDERING the foregoing statements how can any Black Catholic agree with the principles of Catholicism? Islam is the Black man's way of life. Any other way of life is foreign to his nature—so teaches the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. All praises are due to Allah.

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