

Islam In Tuskegee

By Anna Karriem

Wearing African garments and hair style, the young Sister from Georgia said to the class "Students must reject the white symbols that are taught to them from the Bible and begin to relate the Bible to themselves and their history. Everybody knows that the Hebrews were Black...." She went on to tell us of her experiences in the Civil Rights Movement and that the white man intimidates Black people with his religion (Christianity) and the schools that he controls. Proposing that we as a student body unite to eliminate the presence of white instructors on Tuskegee's campus, she suggested that we begin by seeking student power on the institute's policy committees and demand that Black students be allowed to have a voice in determining who is hired to teach at Tuskegee Institute.

AT THE conclusion of her speech I was asked to address

the class. However, I chose to allow my two Muslim Brothers, Cordell and James, to ask her about her references to the Black man in the Bible, for they knew as did I that she was using the teachings of our Beloved Leader and Teacher and did not desire to give him credit. Brother James asked her "The Book of Genesis begins a history of a struggling people. Are these people Black, especially the people referred to in the fifteenth chapter of Genesis?" She replied "Brother let's not get hung up on one part of the Bible because the whole book refers to Black people. The thing we have got to do is unite this student body around Black Identity." One week prior to this meeting I had, in accord with the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, taught six of the students present that the 15th chapter of Gen. refers to a prophecy of a Lost People in a Strange Land and that Messenger Muhammad had told me to tell them that this prophecy refers to the Black people of the Wilderness of North America who have suffered the affliction of the white man for over four hundred years. Her evasion of the question proved that in all her getting, she did not get understanding.

There is nothing more insulting to a student of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad than to sit and listen to a would-be leader revamp, add to, take out, and re-style the wisdom of Allah's Greatest Messenger, the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad. When the opportunity presented itself, the class directed its attention to me and asked my opinion of white instructors. Thus, as he (Messenger Muhammad) had taught me, I began with two fundamental questions for those who had not been taught: Who is the Original Man and Who is the Devil? The first chapter of Job, and Isaiah; the fourth chapter of Revelation and the 37th psalm was pointed out to them as my Beloved Leader and teacher had interpreted them. Their undivided attention bore witness to the power of Allah and the greatness of His Messenger's ability to teach. As Messenger Muhammad so humbly said one evening, "I thank Allah for teaching me how to teach you." All praises are due to Allah.

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