

Islam In Tuskegee

By Anna Karriem

Never, have I received a greater honor than from the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Messenger of Allah, who asked me to represent him and the teachings he had received from Almighty God Allah, Who came in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom Praises are due forever. In accord with his instruction, I began to talk to students in small groups around the campus of Tuskegee Institute until their interest warranted larger and more scheduled meetings. With the Help of Allah, in three or four months, the students and I had agreed upon a meeting place, time and date for each week. As we met and discussed the teachings of Allah and His Messenger, students from the various male and female dormitories would invite me to their respective dormitories to speak or, with the permission of their instructors, they would extend an invitation to me to come and address their fellow classmates. Allah Blessed me to see HIS POWER OF TRUTH loosening the knots in the tongues of the young Black students and to hear them spread this great message of truth to others around the campus. All Praises are due to Allah.

I recall, with feelings of joy, the Black Brothers who invited me to speak in Residence Hall 'C'. The occupants of the dormitory were of Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior classifications. The address was scheduled to last one and a half hours. However, it lasted approximately five hours due to the enthusiasm and attentiveness with which Allah's message to His Apostle was received by the Brothers that night. I had spoken many times to Black audiences on behalf of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (S.N.C.C.), but at the conclusion of this speech and the sight of the joy and pride on the faces of these students, I felt that I had accomplished a worthwhile task. If I had had a private place to bow my head in submission to Allah and shed tears of joy, I would forever thank Him for allowing me to be an instrument of His Will.

Within the few weeks that followed this particular

lecture, the same Black Students who had so graciously received the teachings of Islam on the Black Man's history, had begun to question the right of White instructors to teach African History and Culture.

This dissatisfaction prompted by the students led to open debates with the administration and disagreement in the classroom as these students reported to me. The Devil (White Instructors) immediately began to attend the Educational Council meetings of which I was a member and demand along with their Black ambassadors that all meetings held on the Tuskegee campus allow for all persons regardless to color to enter.

The devil did not believe, evidently, that Allah and His Messenger could take the sword of Truth and cut down every weed of evil he had planted in the minds of the Black Students on this campus who would listen to the word of Allah. Yet, that is exactly why the devil sought to enter our meetings. However, he (the devil) was faced with a new Black student when he entered a meeting held in the lounge of Residence Hall 'E' where I was addressing an audience of Brothers who had come from three other residence halls to join in on the discussion.

The devil students in the building and from other dormitories began to stand around the outside of the crowd and listen. When one of the Black students saw them, he asked them to leave because "this is a meeting for Black folks." The devils started arguing the principles of democracy. This argument caused the entire crowd from my view to stand up in anger.

The devils glared at me and the crowd and quickly left the building. I could hear the Messenger's words in my ears "Whom shall I fear?" May the peace and Blessings of Almighty God Allah forever be upon you Dear Holy Apostle. All praises are due to Allah. I am so proud to be Thy servant.

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