

by
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As the brilliant rays of the sun shone down on the campus grounds, the graduating class of 1969 lined up in front of the campus guest house to form the procession. While walking to the section where the school of Education graduates stood, I was congratulated by my classmates and several of the Indian instructors who have expressed an interest in the teachings of Islam as taught to me by The Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Since the very first day Allah blessed me to meet His Messenger in Phoenix, Arizona, I have never quite gotten used to the honor of conveying his teachings to the students here on the campus of Tuskegee Institute. I will always be eternally grateful to the Messenger of Allah for giving me this privilege.

NOW THAT I was about to be graduated from Tuskegee, one would assume the graduates would be in a mood to talk of the non-campus world and their role in it. Instead, as I took my place in line, one member of my graduating class approached me to ask of the details encompassed in the program of Mr. Muhammad and why it is that Islam seems to be the most successful way of life for Black people in this country? My brother seemed to be well informed of the scope of the Messenger's program, but was lacking

in knowledge of some specifics. As we talked, the students standing around stepped out of line and came closer to hear what was being said and to enter into the conversation. I pointed out the effectiveness the program of Messenger Muhammad is based upon Allah's guidance rather than that of government and state officials as is true of many so-called Black organizations here in America today. Islam is and will always be the most successful way of life for the Black man in America because it elevates his thinking and causes him to believe in himself and his God, Allah.

ONCE YOU ARE able to get a man to believe in himself and

the worth of his existence, he will act in such a manner as is becoming dignified and self-respecting man. The state of belief is a willingness to act on that belief.

As it is written of Allah and Islam, "He it is Who has sent His Messenger with the guidance and the religion of Truth that He may make it prevail over all religions." 48:28 Holy Qur-an. I repeated these words to the students who listened hoping that they would better understand the deceit that Christianity brought before the Black people in America. The questions posed by the students were too numerous for the time allowed. The director of the procession came by and asked us to line up again. As the line started to move to the music of the band, I listened to students extending the greetings of peace to me as we passed the crowd of parents and visitors along the route of the march.

As you Black students graduate from your respective schools this spring, what do you intend to do with the knowledge you have acquired. Have you protested and demonstrated all year long only to wait until school is over in order to go into the industries of the very people you have demonstrated against? When you receive your degrees they are only representative of a stage of development in your life and not that you have completed the process of acquiring knowledge.

THE HONORABLE Elijah Muhammad, unlike any Black man in America, has taught me the importance of doing for self and my people as well as the importance of acquiring knowledge. That which he has taught me proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the wisdom he possesses is not to be measured in degrees. Therefore, as students striving for the best education, the Messenger of Allah invites you to join up with him and make the training you have received a tool for the improvement of self and your own kind. I am thankful to Allah that I was able to teach this principle up to the last day of school. All praises are due to Allah.