

# Islam In Tuskegee

By Anna Karriem

The Messenger of Allah (God), the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches the Black Woman of America daily how to dress in clothing that is appropriate and respectable in public. In his radio broadcast that was heard on July 11, 1970, the Messenger taught on the subject of Black women dressed indecently in public and of the man's role in preventing his wife from displaying such indecency under the pretense of "style."

ON THE campus of Tuskegee Institute, the mini-skirt was the accepted "vogue" of attire for young women. What seemed contradictory to me was that whenever a young sister was forced to drop out of school because of pregnancy or whenever a couple was brought before the Institute court comprised of students and faculty members because of their indecent behavior, the Administration would say "what is becoming of these student's moral principles?"

Under the leadership and guidance of Messenger Muhammad, it was easy for me to see why illicit sexual practices were common among some of the students. The most indecent example you could put before Black young men and Women is the white man and his woman.

IT WAS NOT an uncommon sight to see white instructors and students walking across campus in long hair and beards with sandals on and garments that exposed their bodies. The filthy examples that white people set for Black people does not

legitimize our following and participating in such practices.

Messenger Muhammad teaches us that the devil (white man) was naked in the caves of Europe for 2,000 years and this practice of nudity is a characteristic of his race as you can see today. The dictionary defines an example as that which belongs to and is typical of a group of things or that which has the qualities of any member of the group.

Every where the white man goes, he seeks to destroy the moral fiber of the people he comes in contact with. He seeks out the women of that particular Nation first for she is the one who must teach and train the fruit she bears for her antion.

I recall an evening when I walked from campus to the home of one Black Sister who was enrolled in the same course of study with me to talk over our class assignment with her.

When I knocked at the door of her apartment, the instructor of our class answered the door partially dressed. His face turned red as if he was surprised to see me as well as angry because I had come there.

I LOOKED PAST the devil and saw the sister I had come to study with, also partially dressed, in bed quickly trying to cover herself. I left quickly without saying a word to either of them.

As I walked home, I thanked Allah for leading me to His Messenger and Blessing me to be taught the principles of righteousness and decency. Every Black institution that admits the devil to its faculty or student body is sacrificing the very moral core of decency among its students. The administration of Tuskegee Institute should have learned this lesson very well by now.