

Islam In Tuskegee

By Anna Karriem

The most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Messenger of Allah has shown us the Black Nation here in America the tremendous rewards that result from doing for self. The work of the Messenger and we who follow him serve as an example to the Black Nations around the world that Black does not mean dependence upon other than Black for advancement. This way of thinking must be instilled in the minds of every Black Man,

Woman, Child in America, as the Messenger of Allah teaches us, if we as a Black Nation are to rise from under the foot of a 6,000 year enemy.

Tuskegee Institute officials are now asking for funds to keep the school operating on an accredited level. The President of Tuskegee Institute, Dr. Luther H. Foster, would address the students and faculty members on the financial and developmental status of the Institute each year. It was not difficult to discern that the budget for the school was over spent. As I talked with different students about the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and

business acumen he demonstrated in his guidance and operation of the Universities of Islam across the country; they (the students) began questioning the administration's ability to manage the school and resolved to bring this before an administrative committee.

I was chosen to represent the School of Education as a student member of Educational council which was a body of faculty, students, and administrators from the various departments of the Institute. The issues to be discussed at this particular meeting included the finance for the school of engineering, the type of courses to be

improved upon, space for enlarged enrollments among other topics. At the time of the meeting, the students representatives and I wanted to talk about ways in which we as a Black Institution could help ourselves and eradicate the weaknesses in the Institute's curriculum, caused by a lack of funds. However the devil who headed the school of Engineering dominated the discussion and began to tell the body of people there that he had drawn up a proposal on which the school could succeed in that department. The Messenger's teaching on doing for self does not include the devil's plan. Yet the Black Administrators listened with interest and

ignored those of us with plans that would not include the devil. Tuskegee Institute rejected the Messenger's offer to help and it is now seeking funds for an increasingly strained budget. Why must Black people feel the need to confer with the devil before they feel the need to go for self? The Messenger teaches us that "You must change a peoples' way of thinking before you can change their condition." Once we realize that we can not sit down with an enemy and still meet with success, then will we begin doing for self and following Messenger Muhammad. Moses did not sit down with Pharoah and talk over liberating Israel did he?