

Muhammad's message sets Caribbean ablaze

Entire social spectrum of Jamaican people applauds New York minister's presentation

By Alonzo 4X
(News Editor)

KINGSTON, Jamaica — "I think Donald's gonna be an altar boy," said the impeccably dressed Jamaican woman to her husband.

THE TABLE at which she sat was occupied by eight other middle-class Jamaicans who had all turned out to a special reception for Muhammad Ali and his Muslim party from the United States. The prestigious reception was held at Jamaica House, the official residence of Michael Manley, Prime Minister and Chief of State.

The table buzzed with talk about various aspects of the Catholic faith and the rituals (Mass, confession, etc.) associated with it. Many middle-class Jamaicans are Catholics.

They had come to absorb the fame of Muhammad Ali, merely by being in his presence.

BUT BEFORE the major attraction was brought on, the reception host introduced, "one of the most articulate and eloquent speakers I have ever heard, Minister Louis Farrakhan."

"Who?" the impeccably dressed woman asked. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad's National Representative, began his speech by thanking Jamaican officials for their cordiality and the crowd began buzzing again.

"My dear brothers and sisters, I represent a man that many of you have heard about but so few of us really understand. And it's not your fault that you don't understand the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

"For I'm sure that 2,000 years ago in the Roman Empire, if we would have heard that Jesus was anti-Rome,

anti-God, anti everything that was good for Rome. But we would have been listening to his detractors, to his enemies," the skillful minister said.

With the mention of Jesus, the crowd suddenly became attentive.

The impeccably dressed woman with the altar boy son stopped talking and looked intensely at the lean man at the microphone.

"So if we wanted to know about Jesus we would never go to Pontius Pilate, if we wanted to know about Jesus we would have to seek out one of his disciples so that they may properly represent this man to the people who sought him," Min. Farrakhan continued.

BY USING an analogy to the time of Jesus in the Roman Empire, Min. Farrakhan established an immediate rapport with the Catholic-oriented audience at the very outset of his address.

In his characteristic fashion, the minister presented the teachings of Messenger Muhammad in a way that related them to the contemporary reality of his audience.

At the conclusion of the speech, the crowd applauded vigorously and the crowd's enthusiastic members stood on chairs and benches to cheer.

Among the waiters, the government officials, the island's millionaires, the musicians. All joined in applause for the eloquent minister with the message from the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

ONE JAMAICAN who had lived in the U.S. for more than seven years and had been exposed to the thousands of words of negative propaganda written about the Nation of Islam expressed wonderment

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Muslim speaker at famous theatre, a historic first!

Islam lights Apollo marquee

This is a new day for the Apollo and the Black man...

By Joe Walker
(M.S. Staff Writer)

BAKLEM—"Farrakhan at the Apollo" was a smash hit but it was not a vaudeville or show business act.

Minister Louis Farrakhan, the National Representative of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, was once in show business. He sang, played the violin and danced. He was a noted calypso singer who had records on the hit parade.

LAST DEC. 18, Min. Farrakhan spoke to an overflow audience of thousands at the world-famous Apollo Theatre where he "always wanted to play" but "never was big enough to make it."

Black people of all ages, mostly non-Muslim, lined up for a half hour or more before the doors of the Apollo opened

The lines of people who came early for seats stretched down 125th Street and around both 7th and 8th Avenues.

Min. Farrakhan, neither sang nor danced, but merely talked. He spoke of his calling to the Nation of Islam. He said that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad told him, "Brother, put your music down and pick up this word and carry it to the people — it's music."

"It's more beautiful music than any singer of songs or player of any instrument," revealed Min. Farrakhan. "This is a music that has us dancing to the rhythm of the times—of the rise of the Black man. This is a music that makes Black peoples' lives harmonize."

"This is the music that He made me a singer of and a player of," he continued. "He took me from the garbage

pail—from a conked head with reefer in my hat band and He cleaned me up and gave me a word."

THAT MUSIC—"the life-giving teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad"—was the score that Min. Farrakhan delivered to an audience that responded enthusiastically. It was a historic, moving and memorable first for the Apollo Theatre which over the years has seen many of the top Black vocalists, musicians and other artists on its stage.

Holding the audience in rapt attention, Min. Farrakhan drew frequent and heavy applause. With humor and reason, emotion and knowledge, the fiery minister—moving about the stage—spoke of the deception of the Christian Church, "miseducation in white schools,

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MINISTER FARRAKHAN speaking to Jamaican rally crowd (left and right photos by Charles 62X). Historic marquee at the Apollo theatre.

Apollo

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Black use of drugs, Black prostitution, Black manhood and Black womanhood, Spanish, French and English conquests and exploitation in the Caribbean; Islam in the world, and other topics.

At a blackboard the minister of Muhammad's Temple No. 7 instructed about the "Original man," on which he placed the evening's heaviest emphasis. He quipped, "I don't want to be long but I want to be strong."

"Come Home to Muhammad" was the other major theme, as the minister pointed out that the ever-increasing ranks of the Nation of Islam are being swelled by the call of "the thunder of unemployment, by the thunder of war and revolution, by the hate of the policeman's nightstick and bullets, by the hate of a society that wants nothing to do with the Black man."

URGING THE men and women in the audience to learn to love each other, Min. Farrakhan asserted: "Instead of fighting, reason! Instead of cutting, talk! Instead of shooting, walk! Try it, you'll love it!"

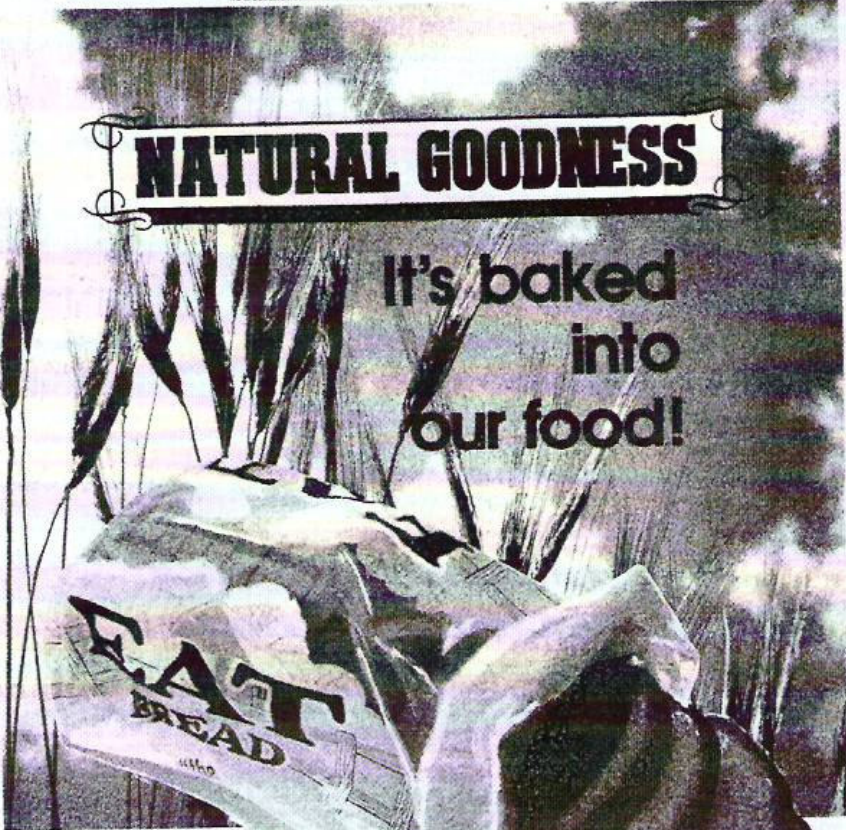
"And if you don't think you can make it, come on... we will show you how," he suggested. "Muhammad did it for us. We know he can do it for you."

Earlier in the evening, "healing" Black music was played by a group comprised of Brother Doug Carn on piano and organ (who sang his hit composition "Western Sunrise"), Bro. Waldon X on tenor sax, Bro. Eric 20X on alto sax, Bro. Amos 2X on congas, Brothers Ben 2X (Dixon) and Jesse 19X on drums and Bro. Albertus X on organ.

A COLOR SLIDE presentation, by Bro. William C X, on the progress of the Nation of Islam was narrated by Min. Larry 4X. It featured slides of the Messenger, top officials of the Nation of Islam, the F.O.I. and M.G.T. and G.C.C. in action.

Also shown was the home of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and other magnificent homes designed and built by the Nation; opening day (May 28, 1972) events at Muhammad's then new Temple No. 2 in Chicago, and the personal jet of the Messenger.

More slides showed exterior and interior shots of the Muhammad Speaks Building, with its modern computers and printing press that can turn out 60,000 copies an hour, which also houses an egg processing plant and cold storage facilities for beef and lamb from Muslim farms.



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