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Cites the Black Woman's Natural Awareness of Truth

By Bayyinah Sharrieff

Many of our original (Black) women realize that it is disrespectful for them to wear the short miniskirts. As the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us, we have the ability to distinguish right from wrong within us. It is the natural religion of the original Black man to submit and to do right. Islam is the religion of the righteous. It is therefore the natural religion of the Black man.

MANY times when Black women come to the Mosque and are told they cannot be permitted inside to listen to the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad in a dress above their knees, they are willing to pull their skirts down, pin coats together, etc., in order to cover their knees and be permitted inside the Mosque.

Recently, one of the young ladies visiting our Mosque here in Chicago said she did not know that she could not come inside the Mosque in a dress above her knees. I explained to her that it is a form of respect for the teachings of truth and righteousness and for ourselves, to be modest and cover our bodies and also to help keep the clean respected appearance in the Mosque, and to avoid evil.

The young lady asked if she could pull the hem out of her dress so as to be permitted inside. I was surprised by her request, for she was a young lady, about 18 years of age. She was wearing a very becoming dress and had a very neat and attractive appearance.

Chicago, Ill., but in the Mosques across the nation.

The black woman today knows within herself that the short minidress is a disgrace to herself and all who are in her company, for she is exposing that which she should keep covered.

(HOLY Qur-an 7:27). That which the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us is not of himself but that which Allah, Who came in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom praises are due forever, has taught him. The Holy Qur-an supports and verifies the teachings of truth, which the Honorable Messenger has given to us.

A few Sundays ago, a woman, approximately in her late thirties, came to the Mosque. Her skirt was below her knees, but the neckline of her dress was very deep and much of her bosom was exposed. I explained to her the respect we must show ourselves and the teachings. I asked if she would mind my pinning her neckline together. She was relieved to hear that she could be admitted just by covering herself and was pleased to be admitted.

These are just two examples of how Black women here in America are aware that it is disrespectful to themselves to expose their body to the degree that popular American fashion critics promote today. They realize they have gone past the limit of decency—and it seems all they need is for someone to tell them so, and they are ready to submit. Why? Because it is in their nature to distinguish right from wrong.

SHE PULLED the hem out of her dress so that it hung two inches below her knee, thereby meeting the requirements of admittance to the Mosque. Her disposition was very pleasing and she seemed satisfied that she could be permitted inside.

This is an example of the situation as it is today. Many of my sisters have reported such cases, not only here in Mosque No. 2,

ONLY IN the underdeveloped areas, in uncivilized societies, will one find Black women exposing themselves as they do here in America. Black women elsewhere will not expose themselves as the women do here in America, nor will their men allow them to do so. In some parts of Africa and Asia, the woman would be arrested, fined and in some places beaten and exiled for such exposure.