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MUHAMMAD SPEAKS

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Despite Foes' New Hate Tactics, The Messenger of Allah is Sure to Triumph

By Abdul Basit Naeem

We all know that the white U.S. press and other news media cannot and will perhaps never treat Islam fairly and justly. We also know that it is a "second nature" with most (if not all) American newsmen, editorial writers and radio and television commentators to generally degrade, defame and denigrate everything Islamic; they cannot and will not appreciate our sacred faith because they do not know how.

WE ARE further aware that, for reasons almost everyone understands (i.e., which have been frequently expounded in this space), the "Nation of Islam" movement headed by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad will long continue to be the principal target of U.S. information media hate mongers.



Lately, however, I have noticed a slight shift in the strategy. Instead of the Muslim leader, one of his devoted followers — Brother

Muhammad Ali—has been made the main object of their ridicule, slanders and vilification.

I suppose the "devils" can't help choking in their fury and despair that a Muslim—and a black man—is still very much the heavyweight champion of the whole world, inclusive of the "white" continents of Europe, North America and Australia.

AFTER ALL, what else but pure envy and anger would compel them to continue calling our "beautiful" (righteous) brother "Cassius Clay"—instead of MUHAMMAD ALI, which is his proper Muslim name? What else but genuine jealousy would drive me persecuting him by nearly preventing the champ from pursuing and practicing his legitimate profession in his own native land (U.S.A.) as was the case some months ago?

The latest pointed jabs at Brother Muhammad Ali, I hasten to point out, are caused by his reported "interest in serving the Nation as a Minister . . ."

"A pugilist, poet and publicist, Mr. Clay always gave a good account of himself, and this week he casually

added a new role — preacher," stated a recent New York Times editorial piece, which further implied that the champion sought a ministerial role in the Muslim movement "in order to avoid the draft." Virtually identical comments, I might add, have also appeared in numerous other American newspapers and magazines as well as aired over radio and TV networks during the past few weeks.

NOW, OF course, I am in no way asserting here that my good brother Muhammad Ali has been or will eventually be appointed an official Muhammad's Mosque of Islam "laborer." Appointments of this nature are personally made by the Muslims' leader, Honorable Elijah Muhammad. He alone therefore can issue a formal statement to this effect.

But I don't see where that would make a difference anyway—since it is common knowledge that even a rank-and-file member of the "Nation of Islam" in North America will not take up arms in behalf of Allah's foes or fight in an unjust or senseless war (waged

(Continued on page 11)

Despite Foes, Hate Tactics, Messenger Will Triumph

(Continued from page 10)

against another black people, at that).

It is thus clear that Brother Muhammad Ali's draft status is hardly the "issue" under review. I think what the "devils" really dread is a potentially powerful propagator of Islam in the champion prizefighter. I believe our enemies have "sensed" that the champ, who "already constitutes an important attraction . . . and hence an invaluable aid to the Muslims' cause," is bound to prove "many times as effective and useful . . . when a full-time preacher of the Muslim faith."

IF I AM correct in my analysis and opinion (above), it should then prove the original contention of this writer—that it is not Brother Muhammad Ali at all but the Honorable Elijah Muham-

mad at whom the latest information media slanders are in reality directed. The bitter, anti-Muhammad Ali tirades are but our enemies' newest and highly deceptive method of attacking the Messenger's "message" and work.

But little do our enemies know that the noble, rightful leader of American Muslims is the one person on this earth they cannot possibly harm, hurt or harrass forever.

Divinely missioned to "revive" the 22 million "dry bones" (i.e., so-called Negroes) of America and lead them to the Promised Land (unfettered freedom, justice and equality), the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is, with Allah's grace, perfectly capable of reaching his aims and destiny with or without his laborers' aid.