

# The Messenger on Educational TV:

## 'My mission is to give LIFE...'

(The following is the second section of excerpts from an unusual exclusive interview granted to the National Educational Television Network by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. The series of interviews took place in Phoenix, Arizona, and were conducted over a period of several days, by the staff of San Francisco station, KQED.

They are scheduled to be presented over network stations on Dec. 7, and Dec. 21. However, for MUHAMMAD SPEAKS' readers, we have been granted permission to bring you excerpts from sections of that historic interview.)

QUESTION: How would you describe your mission?

ANSWER: My mission is to give life to the dead. What I teach brings them out of death and into life. My mission, as the Messenger, is to bring the truth to the world before the world is destroyed. There will be no other Messenger. I am the last and after me will come God Himself. I do not say I will live so long as that, but when God comes, if it pleases Him, I may be with Him. However, if I am not with Him, this is the final. This truth I bring will give you the knowledge of yourself and of God.

QUESTION: Earlier, when you spoke of defections, you mentioned something about the fact that Jesus had similar defections—would you explain?

ANSWER: Yes. Such defections are nothing. The public should not think it's strange, this time in which we live. We have the actual spirit of God moving among the people.

QUESTION: Well, now if in time, sir, your grandson, Shariff or your son, Wallace or Malcolm ever expressed the desire to return, to follow you again, would you accept them?

ANSWER: There is nothing unforgivable. The Holy Qur'an teaches you. The only thing that is unforgivable is this: that you will not accept Allah as God and not accept His Messenger as His Messenger. These two things are one, we say, the belief in Allah is the belief in the Messenger of the Prophet of Allah.

The belief in the Messenger or the Prophet of Allah is a belief in Allah, if you disbelieve in one you disbelieve in both.

You cannot believe in one and disbelieve in the other. This is the knowledge the world has not realized, and this is what God wants the world to know.

When God chooses His representative for the people, He speaks to the people through that representative and if the people will accept that representative (we call them prophets, apostles or messengers), then they are accepting Allah.

But if they reject him, and still say they believe in Allah, they are considered enemies of Allah and disbelievers. Because that is Allah's

representative and you cannot accept one without rejecting the other. You have got to accept both.

You cannot get the blessings of Allah if you reject His Messenger.

Now, these boys that you were referring to, they do not worry me. I do not give my time arguing with them or talking about why they believe or disbelieve.

I do not even argue with them because I knew these things in the beginning. I knew they would act like this, some of them. I was told about this 34 years ago. But they did not know these things and I am not excited, as the public would be, or as the public might like to see. In some cases, if the son disbelieves in his father, his father must be wrong. But that is not so when it comes to a Messenger of God.

If we say that is true, then it stands true in the common life of the family.

There are some children who never sincerely accept their father as they should. There are some fathers who never accept their children as they should. So this is the nature of the human family of the earth and when it comes to spiritual teachings, it is also the same. Not all of the family of a Messenger are completely with him. Even some Prophets had disbelieving wives such as Noah and Lot.

They do not always have true believers, but that did not detract one atom of his messengership.

You do not take advantage of that, unless you get into war or trouble with God.

You do not say, "I do not believe in him because his own wife or his own son does



THE MESSENGER of Allah, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad (r.) in his Phoenix, Arizona, home where unprecedented interview for hour-long TV documentary was made for distribution by National Educational Television channels, Dec. 7 and Dec. 21. Interviewer is Buzz Anderson of station KQED, San Francisco.

not. Why should I follow him?"

You would be getting yourself in trouble, because that is given. I do not care anything about those who fall away from me after I have pointed the truth up to them and despite this they get wrong and go away from that truth.

I am not responsible for them, for whatever they say against me, it is against themselves. What they preach and tell the people in order to get the people to disbelieve in me is much like Absalom was by his father, David.

Absalom stole the affection of the people because he thought he looked better and was probably better and younger than David. He thought, therefore, the people would follow; that he could steal the people over to himself and get rid of his father as king and be king himself. But he was not to be king, had yet to be known: that was Solomon.

These facts are all put there to deepen our knowledge, and time repeats these things over again and again.

And so this is what we face today and I am not surprised the public is surprised, some of them, at the deviation of Malcolm or my son Wallace. I am not surprised. But they cannot yet say that I am not the Messenger of Allah. They

cannot take that away from me.

QUESTION: Mr. Muhammad, would you make some statements about Dr. Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement?

ANSWER: Yes, I think Rev. King has been doing a good job, according to his knowledge. He has been trying to do his best to get our people some justice in the way of civil rights. I believe that he means well and I believe he would have done better if he had known more about the time and the people and the history and what must be done in such times.

He has the desire to see his people dealt with according to justice and not according to injustice. But he does not know that he is living in the time when justice is bound to come to his people. However, it is only through Divine and not through civil government. And that goes for most of the groups who are trying to do something for the betterment of our people.

They, most of these leaders, have good intentions, but they just don't have the right instruments to work with and they do not know how to use the instruments, since they were not appointed to do the job.

But all of our people today have the desire to do something for themselves and first of all, to see injustice

removed from the whole.

We have suffered injustice at the hands of the white people for 400 years, and today some want to be called 'Citizens of America' but all of this without the qualities that go along with freedom. We are today, I repeat, imbued with the spirit of justice for our people and something must be done. This oppression cannot go on forever.

What the civil rights movement is trying to do is just another effort to bring home to our people a better life. But this is the time when our people should and will get a better life on a permanent scale, NOT on a TEMPORARY scale.

The political administration may change every four years. The Constitution is looked upon as the legal guide, but it has never been enforced, insofar as we are concerned. We have never enjoyed such rights as the Constitution gives to the people of America. And if we understand it, well, it was not written with the so-called Negro in mind. It is written for the white citizens of America and not the slaves.

The slave is not mentioned there and it was not in the mind of these lawmakers that he should share equal justice with the master. No, he was considered to be the

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# On TV, Mr. Muhammad Speaks: Of Allah and His Messenger

(Continued from page 5)

property of the master. Therefore, the servant or the slave cannot get justice—equal justice—with the master unless the master wants to give up his position as master.

If the master gave up his position as master, the slave would soon become his equal and the slave would probably vote for equal justice, go to the White House or become the ruler of the country, if the equal justice was obtained the way through as it should. But the Constitution was written by white people, for white people and not for you and me.

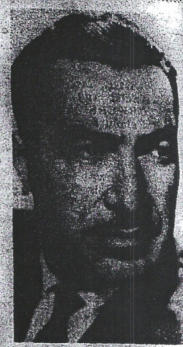
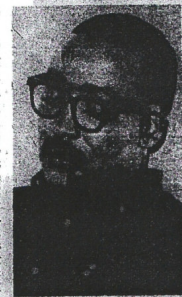
We were under the slave-masters at that time, and again, I would like to make

clear: I am not fighting those leaders who are trying to do something good for our people, or get something better for them. But I do oppose them in their way of opposing that which is good and which would be just and permanent for our people. For we now have come to the time when we want justice and equality. We want freedom equal with other people. They have never made us citizens and under their law, we cannot be made citizens. We could never be citizens, as stated in their first slavery courts.

If we want to go into the facts about it, we are not the equal of the American white man, nor are we a citizen with him, here. We are

in alien country. We are aliens and not citizens.

And this is proof that we have to admit and not try to hide, to make some black brother feel good. To tell a black brother that he is a citizen and has equal rights, is like telling a child to go to sleep on the 24th night of December and on the next morning, awaken and the Santa Claus will leave a present in your stocking when THAT is the Santa Claus talking. And the child, when he grows up, he learns that. Well it is the same thing with us. We have had a lot of Santa Claus teaching and now we are growing up because we know that a lot of these Santa Claus teachings were nothing but a lot of pac-



HARLEM CONGRESSMAN A. Clayton Powell, (above) and author-lecturer Louis Lomax (left) who appear on NET program with personal comments on the program and works of Mr. Muhammad.

ifiers. We are no longer satisfied to be pacified. We want something permanent.

## The \$700,000 Question in Mississippi:

### How Will Racist Handle Funds to Fight Poverty?

CORINTH, Miss.—\$700,000 in federal funds for a five-county area will be administered by a State Senator who once advocated using federal money to segregate housing and schools.

The grant—announced November 24 by President Johnson and Sargent Shriver

—was given to the Corinth Urban Renewal Agency, and, according to Corinth Mayor John Mercier, will be used to upgrade education in the area and thus upgrade the area's economic resources. The funds will be used in an area including Alcorn, Tishomingo, Prentiss,

Union and Tippah Counties. State Senator J. F. Dean of Corinth has been named head of the five-county project. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

said Corinth is one of four Mississippi cities still participating in the Federal Urban Renewal Program after the state legislature cut off renewal funds, fearing integrated housing would result. Senator Dean, in state senate debates on the fund cut-off in February, 1964, advocated using the federal money to maintain housing and school segregation.

Dean said on February 14, 1964 that Corinth would use

Urban Renewal funds to relocate "32 Negro families who live within a block of our white high school and solve a potentially dangerous situation."

The grants which Senator Dean will be administering, SNCC said, will flow through governmental and non-governmental agencies, as well as non-profit organizations such as schools and churches. SNCC Field Secretary Donald White, who directs activity in the 1st Congressional District for the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), said none of the school systems or churches in the entire five

county area are desegregated.

White said federal funds could be better used to repair five antiquated school buses used to transport 260 Negro children to their segregated schools. The SNCC worker said a Negro parent's boycott of the school buses forced an admission from the Alcorn County School Board that new buses were needed, but could not be purchased because the board faced two outstanding transportation notes totaling \$16,000. White wondered "how the county can owe \$16,000 on buses they admit are no good."

## Negroes Call for TV Tilt

JACKSON, Miss.—Mississippi Negroes have issued an angry challenge to Gov. Paul Johnson who claimed over a national TV program that Negroes were perfectly "happy" and contented in his state.

Aaron E. Henry, president of the Mississippi State NAACP, together with Charles Evers, NAACP field secretary and brother of the murdered Medgar Evers, and the Rev. R. L. T. Smith, chairman of the Jackson Movement for Freedom and Human Dignity sent the fol-

lowing wire to NBC in New York:

"Request permission to debate former Governors Hugh White, Ross Barnett and present Governor, Paul B. Johnson in open session on your show in order that a true and clear picture of Mississippi may be presented to the nation."

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