

# Pakistani Muslim Asserts: 'Will Forever Serve Messenger of Allah'

By Abdul Basit Naeem

I have resided in the United States of America for nearly 16 years. During this period—long by the standards of an individual whose first and foremost love is serving his compatriots—there is much that I witnessed in this vast land, from coast to coast and in about 28 states of the Union. I have observed the American people at work—building giant dams, endless highways, tall superstructures of steel and glass.

I have seen America's mills and factories operating in full gear, mass-producing automobiles, television sets, telephones, electronic instruments. I have visited scores of historic churches and famed museums, theaters and sports clubs.

I have attended lectures, forums and seminars at numerous institutions of higher learning as well as concerts, business confabs and political conventions. Many of my experiences here have been thoroughly interesting, stimulating and even exciting.

Yet, as I indulge in reminiscence, one of the scenes of the American drama that I remember most and will forever cherish is my visit in 1954 to the University of Islam No. 2 in Chicago—founded by the great leader of the American Muslims, Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

More than three thousand and six hundred days and nights have gone by since my eyes first beheld that lovely sight—of about 10 Muslim boys reciting their prayers in Arabic and a much larger group of both boys and girls singing, in perfect harmony, Arabic folk songs popular in the Arab-Muslim world. The

recollection of that event, however, is as fresh and clearly perceptible to my mind as if it had just taken place!

No doubt, my memory was aided and continually strengthened by the many significant and equally meaningful occurrences that followed, such as my frequent visits in 1957, 1959 and 1961 to the home of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad in Chicago (where it was my very great pleasure to form the acquaintance of the entire Muhammad family), and to several of the Mosques (known at that time as "Muhammad's Temples of Islam") established by the noted Muslim leader in various parts of the country.

My presence in the midst of the University of Islam student body was, nevertheless, in itself, as it still is, the source of considerable personal joy and delight.

It was not, of course, the Muslim students' proficiency in the Arabic language alone, or their faultless performance of the Islamic prayer ritual, that had so deeply impressed me. It was, I sincerely feel, a combination of several favorable factors—general appearance, etiquette, mannerism,

etc.—that made the occasion one of the most unforgettable ones for me.

"Here are a young people," I distinctly recall telling myself at the time, "proud of themselves and their kind—proud of being black—and of their African heritage. While they are not dressed in African garb, it is obvious that neither are they groomed in the fashion of the European young people. They are immaculately dressed, in the best of clothes, yet they go about their business in school with such humility and modesty! Their social behavior is so correct! Their gait so dignified and graceful!"

If I liked what I saw at the University of Islam, it was natural that I should have liked even more the source of it all—of this splendor, distinct character, discipline and truly amazing genius. Hence, my love and affection for the great Muslim leader of America, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad!

Here I might add that knowing the respected Messenger as intimately as I do has been both a pleasure and unique privilege. Likewise,

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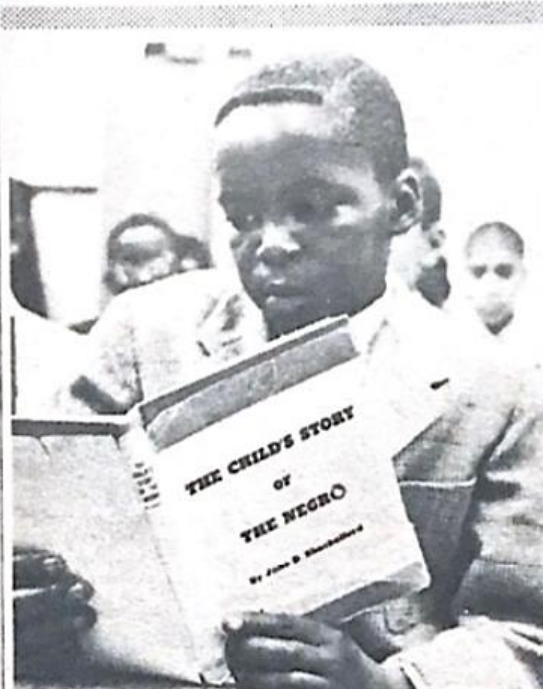
# Pakistani Muslim Views Messenger

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knowing of his Mission and, more than that, being, ultimately, a tiny particle of his great program and work in this part of the world has been a source of real inspiration and much personal gratification. Indeed, I shall forever cherish serving my dear and respected brother in Islam, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

As a few readers of "Muhammad Speaks" might recall, I was the first journalist ever to write and publish a report in this country on the "Nation of Islam in the Wilderness of North America," which I did in 1956, in my own "Muslim World & The U.S.A." magazine. (Over a two-year period, I wrote and published nearly a dozen full-length reports on the subject.)

But much more than my own writings, I value the honor and opportunity I was accorded in 1957 when the Honorable Messenger called upon me to help compile and



of Africa and the Muslim World in 1959-60. It was I who, being in the travel agency business at the time, had arranged the details of his entire journey!

In more recent times, of course, I have also served the Honorable Elijah Muhammad as a writer and correspondent for Muhammad Speaks.

Thus, as I look back at the years gone by, it goes without saying that I derive much satisfaction from knowing that these were in-

deed the best years of my life.

And some good day, when, ultimately, my longing for the land of my birth totally seizes me and when the wings of my soul flutter ceaselessly and carry me once more to where I originally belonged, I would have the additional comfort of knowing that the best years of my life were spent, in large measure, in the service of a great man and a great Muslim leader, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad!

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