

"What Islam Has Done For Me..."

Name Muhammad Was Chosen for Messenger

By John Shabazz

SAN FERNANDO, Calif.—What's in a name? Plenty, judging by the treatment the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's name has received from the white press and their Negro imitators through the years. When a powerful, multi-billion dollar combine like America's propaganda machine concentrates so much time, effort and money on trying to convince the world that our leader and teacher is wearing the wrong name, it shows us that there is much more to a name than just a tag for identification.



Minister John Shabazz

I Understood After the Harlem Talk

By Brother Arthur X (Washington, D.C.)

It is a pleasure, an honor and, most of all, a blessing for me to be able to say that I am a believer in Allah and His Messenger, and a follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah.

I heard the teachings of the Messenger of Allah many years ago and I thought I understood them. However, had I really understood, I would have become a registered Muslim then. I didn't really begin to understand Islam until about three months ago.

Just as I was getting a better understanding with each visit to the Mosque, I was blessed by Allah with a chance to see the man of God in person. It was that memorable day, June 28, 1964, in Harlem. That trip from Washington to Harlem to hear the Messenger was the most thrilling journey I have made.

Upon arriving in New York the day before the Messenger was to speak, I had a chance to talk with many Muslims from all over the nation. Being with them made me feel—for the first time in my life—pride and a sincere feeling that I was blessed for being a black man.

They can't take the name Muhammad from the Messenger of Allah, because it doesn't belong to them and they don't control it, so they plant sly implications in their newspapers, magazines, etc., to the effect that there must be something shady about him because he doesn't go by the name he was born under. Yet, many of these reporters, editors, and commentators have themselves changed their names, or else their parents did.

If there is something dishonorable about changing a name, then the press should do its duty and warn the millions of people preparing to vote for a candidate for President of the United States who changed his name from Goldwasser to Goldwater. And if the people of Britain read the September issue of Esquire magazine, they must be frantic to learn that their royal family was named "Battenberg" before it became "Mountbatten." That is, if it is so disgraceful to change your name.

Should Roy Rogers be arrested because he stopped using the name "Leonard Slye?" Or should Cary Grant be forced to start back calling himself "Archibald Leach?"

But the press doesn't become alarmed at all these name changes — only one bothers them: MUHAMMAD, that independent name from the independent God—the first sign of independence among the so-called Negro in 400 years.

When Israel was established, all who became citizens of that nation shed the national names they wore from the countries in which they had lived, and took on Israeli names as a sign of a new nation. Thus, the man who left the United States as David Green became David Ben-Gurion in Israel, and nobody complained or even lifted an eyebrow.

In many Catholic orders, priests change their names, so that there is nothing uncommon about someone you have known as James O'Halloran becoming known as "Father Francis." And if he is ever elected Pope, he must change his name again. So Msgr. Borgia became Pope Alexander VI; Msgr.

Roncalli became Pope John XXIII, and so forth. These name changes are looked upon as badges of honor. No one condemns these religious name changes.

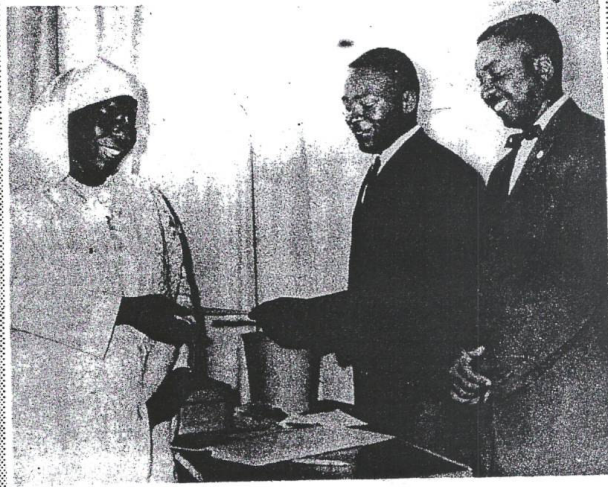
But Messenger Muhammad's case is entirely different. He didn't arbitrarily choose a name for himself, but received it from God, and this is what angers the devils. They know that as

God had a job for Jacob to do, but no Jacob could do this job; it would take an Israel. So God renamed Jacob "Israel," and the job was done. Likewise with Saul, whom God renamed Paul to fit him for the job he was to do.

God needed a job done in America; a job of giving life to 22 million mentally dead so-called Negroes. He had

Like Simon, the name Elijah has a good meaning. In fact, according to the Bible Concordance, the name Elijah means "God Himself." And in its Arabic form, this name means "The Healer; the Medicine; the End; the Solution," and many other things.

So when we, the black people, read and hear these smide remarks about our



ACTIVE IN EVERY effort to advance the program of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Sister Lucinda X, 60-year-old widow of Muhammad's Mosque No. 35, Wilmington, Del., receives receipt for \$100, contributed to Savior's Day. Secretary Ronald X and Cap-

tain Simon X make the presentation. Sister Lucinda, recently returned from a brief Florida vacation, already is a year ahead in her deposits to the Three-Year Economic Program. She says the program is "wonderful."

long as he wore the name of Poole he belonged to old Mr. Poole, but now that he wears a name of God, he belongs to God, and not to the devil.

Are names really that important? Couldn't this man of God do the same job if his name were Elijah Poole? Let us look and see:

According to the Bible, there was a man in whom God delighted. So faithful was he that he is spoken of in the Bible and Holy Quran as a friend of God. God had a great mission for this man to perform. He had all the qualities necessary to perform this divine task, except that he had the wrong name — Abram. No Abram could do the job God wanted done; it would take an Abraham. So when God mentioned him, He gave him the name that fitted the work he was to do. He even changed the name of Abram's wife from Sarai to Sarah, because He also had a job for her to do—a job that would take a Sarah, not a Sarai, to do.

the right man for the job, but His man was going under the name of Poole, and a Poole couldn't do this job. A pool is all right to fish in; a pool may be all right to swim in. But a Poole could never free this black man of America from the love and fear of his slavemaster and make him stand up and be his own independent man, submitting to no one but Allah (God).

It takes the power of God himself to do this, and a man doing the work of God needs a name of God. The name "Muhammad" fits this requirement, because it means "Praised, and Worthy of Praise," and all Muslims declare constantly that "All praise is due to Allah," so Muhammad is obviously a name, or an attribute, of God.

Why didn't God change the first name of His Apostle? Jesus gave his disciple Simon the surname "Peter," but he didn't take away the name Simon, because that name had a good meaning.

leader's name, we should remember where we got the names we have been wearing. And we should also remember that the Bible prophesies that our slavemasters would put their names on us FOR A CURSE, but that God promised to slay those who had put those accursed names on us and call His servants by a new name.

Earliest Revolt

Among some of the earliest recorded slave revolts in the United States was one which occurred in 1526, near the mouth of the Pedee River, in what is now South Carolina.

About 100 Negro slaves rebelled against a colony of about 500 Spaniards, who later fled for Haiti, leaving the rebel Negroes with their Indian companions — as the first permanent inhabitants, other than the Indians, in what was to later become the United States.