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Obedience is one of the keys to our success as Muslims. If we were to study the patterns and habits we have formed since being in the Temple, it would be easy to recognize the need for us to study obedience. Obedience means submission, and Islam means peace and submission, and a Muslim is one who submits entirely to the Will of Allah (God); therefore, to write on obedience is really to write on Islam.

Many times we hear the word "obey" and we immediately begin to think of orders which we are instructed to carry out. This aspect does of course play an important part, yet it is not the only meaning of obey. To obey also means that there is something planned, written, or spoken for us to be guided by—and that something to be guided by is Islam.

Synonymous to the words obey, obedience, and obedient we find the word submit. To be able to submit to authority, submit to control, submit to orders, submit to instructions, submit to guidance, submit to the jurisdiction of Islam, takes a very good man—especially when it calls for submitting to Black authority. We cannot become good Muslims unless we learn to submit. We will not learn to submit until we learn to obey.

When you find a house of disobedient children, you will find a house that has a sorrowful spirit. When you find a house with a sorrowful spirit—when this spirit should be as high as the Wisdom of that house, yet the spirit is low—then you will find a disobedient house. You will find a house that needs to learn the lesson of obedience. The scripture says: "But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandments of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be against you, as it was against your fathers.

Now who is this voice of the Lord that we will not obey? Who gives us the commandments of the Lord which we rebel against? If we believe that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, then he is 'the voice of the Lord' who gives us the commandments from Him. So in our disobedience, we disobey God by disobeying His Messenger, and this puts God against us.

When we are disobedient to Allah's Messenger, Allah will turn us aside, turn us away from Islam, and then we go after vain things which the Book says: "cannot profit us (benefit us) nor deliver what we seek," for they are vain things we seek if we seek not to obey Allah's last Messenger.

When we accept Islam as our way of life, then we become precious in the eyes of Allah and His Messenger; yet, when we disobey them, the scripture says: "We have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly." When we do not obey Allah and His Messenger, they take away from us the things we desire.

When we have not been blessed for long periods of time, there is no one to blame but ourselves. If we were to examine self, we would find that somewhere along the line, we have been disobedient to that which we know is the right way.

(To Be Continued)