

# PATRIOTISM DAY...



"This is a wonderful day" Imam Wallace Deen Muhammad told an eager and orderly crowd numbering more than five thousand. This is a great day. There is nothing else happening today on the face of this earth as big as what's happening right here in Chicago, Grant Park, in this gathering of Bilalians, African Americans and people who don't know that they are Muslims."

His listeners assembled in the park following the annual "New World Patriotism Day Parade" down Chicago's luxurious Michigan Avenue and held Midday prayer in the park before the Chief Imam's address:

The humanism of Imam Muhammad surfaced as he took the example of a little girl lost in the crowd to begin his address.

"In religious language the female is sometimes used as a symbol representing the community or society and we do have a lost society," he told the cheering crowd.

"We may think we have solved all of our problems but we must remember there are still many others who haven't begun to solve their problems. I think Allah just wanted to remind us through

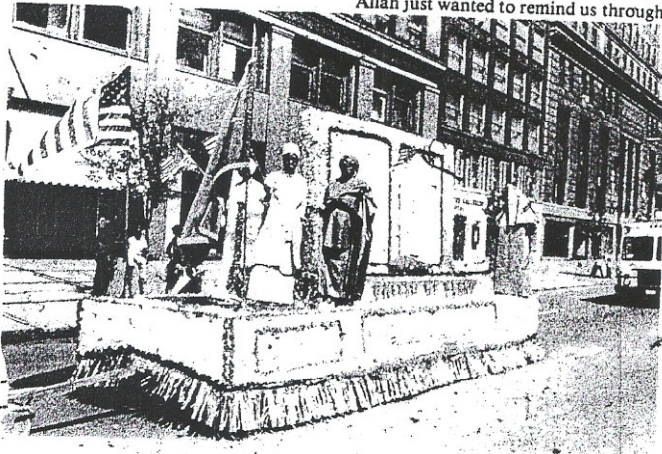
this little girl, because she wasn't really lost. See how quickly they found her?

"I believe God has just given us a sign," he continued as the little girl was returned to her mother. "He wants to remind us that there are still others that must be connected back with their true guardian. And who is our True Guardian? Our Creator, Almighty God Allah, that's our True Guardian."

He cautioned his listeners against forgetfulness once they have settled again in the faith, "We have to get up and go out and call others to the way of God so that they will find that true connection again with their guardian who is Almighty God.

In a moving address that reached all within earshot and lasted nearly two hours the Chief Imam cautioned against faulty leadership and encouraged all religious people to follow the words of Almighty God, Allah, the Most Praised, who says in the Holy Quran, "Go you all together as though in a race after all that is good."

Thousands gather in Chicago's Grant Park and are led in the Noon prayer by Chief Imam Wallace Deen Muhammad, following New World Patriotism Day Parade.



Scenes from Patriotism Day Parade show Chief Imam and son (above), Pioneers riding float dedicated to the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights (lower left) and other participants.

All Photos by Wali Akbar Muhammad