

★ Women in Islam ★

By Tynnetta Deonar

The following analysis offers some points of interest to which we, as women, should pay careful attention when evaluating the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's spiritual teachings and economic blueprint for the so-called American Negro, as presented by those who misinterpret his program by proposing conclusions which are not in his message.

A recent example was the exclusive TV interview which was supposed to present a more authentic picture of the real life work and mission of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. But one could not help but ponder over the statements of one of America's prominent authors, Louis Lomax, who presented his views on the causes which created the dynamic leadership of Messenger Muhammad, but even ventured to predict the climax of its final dwindling status and potency on the American scene.

Perhaps his comments reflect in some measure the generally held opinion of many of our people who believe that they, too, are equipped to formulate, judge and predict the end of the Muslims and their leader, the Messenger of Allah.

Let us, for the moment concentrate on the statement to the effect that with the defection and departure of Malcolm, the Muslims will return to the "oblivion from which they emerged." How did Malcolm achieve heights of knowledge and brilliance—accredited to him by his contemporary admirers and critics— if he was being nursed on ideological chaos, debauchery and oblivion in the beginning?

Before Malcolm heard or accepted the teachings of Islam, was not the same message, which he later espoused, the one he first was taught by the man who had been teaching Islam some 23 years before? Does not the same God, Allah, in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, represent the same Saviour of the black people about whom Malcolm preached and of whom he

had no previous knowledge until he was taught by Messenger Muhammad?

If the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is still teaching that which no man can challenge and has taught his doctrine (Islam) so effectively that even the hypocrites, dissenters and defectors will not give it up in pursuit of another religion, what does this fact say about the man who is continually advocating Islam to his people? What does this reveal about the power (God) behind Muhammad?

Black women of America, in order for us to be found greater tomorrow, we must have knowledge; we must be able to think concretely, to recognize truth and falsehood and to follow the proven truth from the mouth of Allah's Messenger.

Those who reject Muhammad's teachings today, who slur and slant, twist and ignore his divine warnings, will live to taste the bitter consequences and will say in the words of the Holy Qur'an: would that I was a Muslim.

It should be clear that this is not my analysis nor my prediction of things to come,

as others have alluded themselves with the 'imaginary gift of prophecy'. This is simply the teaching of the Holy Qur'an and of the last Messenger to the world—and it will prove true in our lifetime.

We are appealing to you to help us help our children find the kind of life that all men desire. We are appealing to the public to help us build, so that the so-called Negro in America can find confidence and self respect in himself through study and knowledge of his own kind.

We are reminded of what other ethnic groups have done when confronted with this same situation, and Bacon's dictum—that you must change many things if you want to change one thing—has particular application to drastic change.

"If the Negro is to become a new man, he must be stripped of his habits, attitudes, opinions, beliefs and even memories. He needs a new way of life; a new diet, a new way of dressing, a new purpose, even a new religion and a new name. The Muslims of America can point to this achievement." Other ethnic groups have set up their own religion and way of life. They still do, yet the so-called Negro must integrate.

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