

RISE OF THE NATION OF ISLAM: MOVING BEYOND THE X

By Scott Johnson
Ink Staff Writer

When people think of the Nation of Islam they think of socially conscious brothers with short, well groomed hair wearing sharp, business bow ties. They think of bean pies and blue-eyed devils. Or they think of prominent members, such as Muhammad Ali, Minister Louis Farrakhan and of course Malcolm X.

Malcolm X was the vehicle that drove the Nation to the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. But the Nation's history runs deeper than the 60s and Malcolm X.

In July of 1930, in Detroit, a simple, light skinned man "appeared," hailing from the Holy City of Mecca bearing a special message for the American Negro.

Wallace Fard Muhammad, also called W.D. Fard, gathered a small group of followers, who were willing to listen to him preach on

street corners about the beginning of time, the formation of man, and the future of African American's. Fard mysteriously disappeared after four years of teaching. He was never seen or heard from again. The bulk of his teachings was left with Elijah Poole.

The young Elijah continued the teachings of Fard and is responsible for waking up mentally dead African Americans.

Elijah Poole, who soon became the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, began building the Nation of Islam as we know it today. The Nation

grew steadily throughout the 1940's and 1950's, but remained small in size.

In the 1960s, Elijah Muhammad's explosive and outspoken protege, Malcolm X, thrust the Nation of Islam into America's spotlight.

Malcolm X brought the Nation into the living rooms of both black and white America. By preaching the word of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, he was able to attract hundreds of thousands of followers who sought to resurrect the mentally dead (the so-called American Negro), and warn oppressive devils (white America) of their eventual destruction.

Brothers and Sisters within the Nation of Islam shocked mainstream Americans with their Non-traditional religious views. According to the teachings of the Nation of Islam, there have been



Honorable Elijah Muhammed

resurrection of the physically dead is impossible, and that one can only be resurrected mentally.

Therefore there is no heaven or hell, or any other concept of the hereafter. Elijah Muhammad preached that the concepts of heaven and hell were taught by slavemasters to keep the slaves in control.

The Nation of Islam attempts to wake up the mentally dead, and prepare them for judgement day. Judgement day is when all of the righteous people (all the blacks in this world) are saved and the devils are destroyed. The Nation has a strong belief that the original people will take back what was once theirs and destroy all of the oppressors of the last 6,000 years, which is when the white man was created.

There are 12 basic beliefs of the Nation of Islam which can be found more in depth in Message to the Blackman in America, by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Here is a brief summary of the twelve fundamental beliefs:

- 1) Belief in the one God whose proper name is Allah
- 2) Belief in the Holy Koran and the scriptures of all prophets of God.
- 3) Belief in the Bible, but also belief that it has been tampered with and so it must be reinterpreted to avoid the falsehoods.
- 4) Belief in Allah's prophets and the Scriptures they brought to the people.
- 5) Belief in the resurrection of the mentally dead, and not

resurrection of the physically dead. And that blacks are the people's of God's choice.

6) Belief in the judgement, and that this judgement will first take place in America.

7) Belief that this is the time in history when the so-called Negro must be separated from the so-called White Americans, and that the black man and woman should be freed in name.

8) Belief in justice for all and equality as a nation of equals.

9) Belief that integration is hypocritical and is made by those people who are trying to trick the black man and black

woman into believing that despite 400 years of oppression they now are our friends.

10) Belief that Muslims should not participate in Wars which take the lives of humans.

11) Belief that the black woman should be respected and protected.

12) Belief that Allah came in the person of Master W. Fard Muhammad.

Within the last 20 years, the Nation of Islam has changed dramatically. After the death of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the leadership was handed to his son Warith D. Mohammed who went astray from the teachings of his father to the form of Islam which has over one billion followers across the world.

This form of Islam preaches love for all mankind, and focuses purely on the teachings of the Holy Koran. Minister Louis Farrakhan has taken

over where the Honorable Elijah Muhammad left off, and is now the leader/spokesman of the original Nation of Islam which preaches the word as taught by Master W. Fard Muhammad.

Today, the Nation of Islam is under the direction of Minister Louis Farrakhan. They have continued to wake up the mentally dead throughout mosques all across the country. In any major city, brothers in the Nation can be seen selling issues of their official newspaper, The Final Call.

Whether you are for the Nation of Islam or against it, you must look past the superficial elements and see that the Nation has, and continues to be, a major source of social reform in the United States for African Americans.

It reforms those individuals which society has already given up on by teaching them to love themselves and to love where they have come from. It teaches the

black man to be a role model and stay with his family, as well as respect the mother of a 11 people, the black woman. And, it stresses the need for the proper education of African-American

youth, so that they have an understanding of our history and the impact we have had on today's society.

For those wanting to know more about the Nation of Islam, contact Minister David 2X at 493-0714, or there are a number of books available at The Know Book Store in Durham by N.C. Central



Wallace Douglas (Fard)



Malcolm X