

ACCORDING TO IRMA.....

The Book: THE RELIGION OF ISLAM AND THE NATION OF ISLAM: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

written by Mustafa El-Amin, a former member of the Nation of Islam and now a follower of the Religion of Islam, educates on the disparity between the two religions.

While the book points out the strengths for both religions, one finds that the strength for each lies in different areas even though both claim the Koran as their Holy Book. The Nation of Islam (NOI) is a jingoistic religion in that it takes the militant stance in advancing its belief in the superiority of the so-called Negroes of America. The superiority claim puts forth the will of Allah as one of preference towards the so-called Negro.

NOI's strengths actually lie in its area of advancing through prophecy and history, the nobility of African-Americans. In promotion of that notion, it intentionally builds the self-esteem, racial pride, and self-respect of the African lost in America for himself, and who can argue with that which feeds those who are hungry in that area?

The negativity of the religion is that it crushes the persona of others to achieve its end, which is the elevation of the Africans in America. The strengths of the Religion of Islam lies in its strictly following the principle of the Koran of all men being creations of Allah, created in nobility and intelligence. The Religion of Islam's teaching reflects the Creator's high destiny for all and cannot be misinterpreted or misused to uphold iniquity by false teaching of superiority.

Nation of Islam's intentions for the Africans in America are indeed noble ones which should not be totally discounted. Its desire to elevate members of its race stand to be acknowledged for its efforts and successes at doing so, being

careful not to lead astray souls who hungrily follow for the satisfaction of feeling reborn as dignified persons of nobility and greatness through love of self.

The author's effort to educate on the specifics of each religion are very well advanced and informative and a must for those still seeking further knowledge on religious denominations.

T H E MISEUCATION OF THE NEGRO

by Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), represents one of the most important writings of our time written to Blacks living in America. First published in 1933, the book is prophetic and timeless in its reference to the state of emergency surrounding blacks living in America. Woodson recognized in his day, and pointed out a tactic still in use today. It is the successful tactic of controlling a man's life and community, generation after generation, by controlling his thinking, which in turn controls that man's actions. Directly from the book comes these words "when you control a man's thinking, you do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his "proper place" and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary."

Miseducation of the Negro is a book which should be a required text for us as a people. Woodson emphasizes the need for service within our communities rather than leadership roles. He targets our misinformed educators and other professionals who believe that success means leaving their communities after being educated, or "miseducated", if you will, rather than using acquired knowledge in service of those communities, helping to elevate

others. This forceful book speaks to us all and definitely should be a part of every Black family's literature. Read it and learn. Available at Special Occasions Book Store on Martin Luther King Blvd., for \$9.95



Irma Taylor
Winston-Salem, NC



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Local Poet Published in National Anthology

Irma Lawson of Winston-Salem, NC has just had original poetry published in The Coming of Dawn, a treasury of today's poetry compiled by The National Library of Poetry. The poem is entitled "Racism Stands Still," and the main subject is racism. The National Library of Poetry seeks to discover and encourage poets like Irma Lawson by sponsoring contests that are open to the public and by publishing poems in widely distributed hardback volumes. Ms. Lawson has been writing for 15 years and her favorite subjects and ideas are to present issues of mankind and feelings. Poet interested in publication may send one original poem, any subject or style, 20 lines or less, to The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Drive #10, P.O. Box 704NR, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117.

Please be sure to include your name and address with your poem.

All poems received are also entered in The National Library of Poetry's North American Open Poetry Contest, which awards over \$12,000 in prizes annually.

COMMENTARY

The book Miseducation of the Negro tells us in concrete terms that we no longer should allow our reality to be defined for us. Reality is a state of mind and becomes whatever an individual makes of it. We need to learn to think for ourselves using the inner dignity and strength given to each and every one by the Creator. We should learn to work together in order to unlearn past erroneous lessons in order to lead beneficial lives, thus emerging as a dignified people. As the book instructs, the effort must begin with us to help us as a race, beginning from whatever present situation we find.



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