

# Elijah Muhammad Remembered

"But there is a Black Man in America that time has not destroyed. There is a Black Man in America who was here in the '30's, here in the '40's; here in the '50's, here in the '60's, and now in the '70's, Elijah Muhammad is still on the scene and going strong."

The above is from the speech delivered by Minister Louis Farrakhan, at a Black Family Day held on Randall's Island, N.Y. last May. Mr. Farrakhan who served as the National Representative of Honorable Elijah Muhammad often made reference to the wisdom and durability of the late messenger - and rightly so. Perhaps, a greater Black Man has never evolved on the American scene, than the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Many may disagree with the ideology of the Nation - but no one concerned with the plight of the black man can knock his results and accomplishments. Many have come and gone with ideas from Marxism to Christianity, and rhetoric from Fredrick Douglas to MAO - but none have produced the dynamic economic impact, the race pride, the human dignity, the spirit of brotherhood, as seen with the leadership of Mr. Muhammad. If the man possessed anything less than divine guidance, surely it was supreme wisdom. One need not mention that under his leadership the Nation grew, in spite of the most adverse and hostile treatment possible from Black and whites, to an 80 million dollar plus enterprise; or that the faith spread - from two temples in Detroit and Chicago to over 100 temples across the country; or even that the Nation is able to make negotiations with foreign governments as if it were an independent government; or perhaps that the Nation has established excellent universities across the country; he can just observe the effects it has had on Black Men and Women. Brothers and Sisters who were sliding up and down the scale of degradation have been transformed into dignified and proud Black people. They are beautiful people now, you can tell them anywhere. I recall last fall, when Minister Farrakhan returned to Winston-Salem to be honored as a distinguished Alumni, he alluded to fact of his youthful appearance and good health and that if for nothing but looks only, most of our students should come into the Nation. Though meant as a joke, it was a deep thought, meriting serious consideration - those who are concerned with the quality of life as well as living itself. And Who Shouldn't be?

Granted, many are disturbed by religious aspects of the Nation of Islam, its doctrines, and its sincerity. How can I believe that man was messengers of God? What about the diet? The discipline? What about Malcom? I ask, what about you and I? What are we doing? Ideas, education, and whatever is good, but if it does nothing to serve the needs of man in need, what good is it. Personally, I don't feel qualified to question anything about the Nation. Mr. Muhammad whether he contrived a Plan or received direction from "up-higher", it is working now. Black people had physical needs, - he supplied them with food, shelter, money. Black people needed psychological resurrection - he offered them a common black consciousness. Black people needed uplifting - he pulled them up and made them believe in themselves. All people need religion and he gave Black people a religion that satisfied the spirit as well as the body. What more can anyone demand? Perhaps time will negate the value of movements such as the Nation, but for now it is most viable and practical. Regardless of one's ideal society, the spirit of unity must be the first step. The Nation represents this unity. It has a plan.

I surely hope that the Nation will have an orderly transition. I trust that the late Elijah Muhammad will always be remembered as a great Black Man.

Ray Williams



## Messenger Returns To Allah

According to the teachings of the Holy Koran, the righteous do not die - they return to Allah. On Tuesday, February 26, 1975 the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Spiritual leader and messenger of the Nation of Islam returned to Allah after suffering from heart failure. The messenger was 77. He had been a faithful leader and worshiper of the Nation of Islam for more than forty years.

Ironically, the messenger passed one day before he was to deliver his annual Savior's Day Message. The message was to be aired nationally via closed circuit television from the Amphetheatre in Chicago. However, the affair went on as planned with, Wallace Muhammad, the messengers second eldest son, presiding.

Wallace Muhammad, 41, has assumed leadership of the Nation. He is reported to have been in training for the position - although Mr. Muhammad himself named no successor. Wallace, is only one of Mr. Muhammad's six sons. Strangely enough during the break between the late Malcolm X and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Wallace opted to sympathize with Malcolm and was excused from the Chicago Temple No. 2 by his father.

### Former Alumnus Seen As Contender For Leadership

There had been much speculation as to who would become the "number one man"

in the Nation. According to the Amsterdam News, the New York based weekly. Winston-Salem State's own Louis Farrakhan had been trying to project himself in the top leadership - but time was not on his side. The Amsterdam news went on further to cite that Minister Farrakhan's two daughters recently married two of Mr. Muhammad's grandsons, and that "Mr. Farrakhan the New York representative of Honorable Elijah Muhammad had been preparing his congregation for the coming end and a possible power struggle."

Others who were seen as possible contenders were Mr. Muhammad's son Herbert because of his unbroken association with his father and another brother Akbar. One of the messenger's sons, Ekbar is a Professor at Vanderbilt University. According to the Chicago Tribune, however, he is not considered of the inner circle which guides the religion.

Muhammad Ali, though not considered a leader, might be influential should a struggle develop. Many, particularly the Amsterdam News seem to think that a struggle is inevitable because of the need for reconstructing within the Nation. The Amsterdam also feels that Wallace Muhammad because of his orthodox tendencies will be effective, if he leads the Nation closer to orthodox teachings. Otherwise, "They would fall by the wayside like (the

## Book Review

The most controversial, revolutionary, and debated idea in education today is the subject of Career Education: A Proposal for Reform by Sidney P. Marland, Jr. (McGraw-Hill, \$7.95).

The author, a former Commissioner of Education and Assistant Secretary of Education and now President of the College Entrance Examination Board, points out that this new force in learning theory and practice shifts the emphasis of America's schools from learning for learning's sake to preparing students in practical - as well as academic - ways for a useful, productive, and self-fulfilling life styles of their choice.

The first book on the subject for general readers, Career Education discusses the ways in which career education seeks to make schooling more relevant for children, young people, and adults. It describes the system's current impact on schools, colleges, vocational institutes, and businesses, and explores its potential for revitalizing the nation's learning curricula.

Dr. Marland also examines the pros and cons of career education, and responds to its critics and detractors. While there have been passing thrusts at other concepts of educational change over the past half century, he notes, none has so captured the support of parents, teachers, school and university leaders, school boards, business and industry.

Dr. Marland objects to the title "father of career education" which is commonly associated with his name, for the concept, he says, has had many fathers and mothers: in fact it has been waiting in the wings for generations, he declares, and he has only been a "mid-husband" to its development.

by Victor de Keyserling

movements) of Father Divine or Daddy Grace." It will nevertheless be an interesting and crucial period in America's history - black and white.

### Funeral

On Friday, February 28, 1975, more than 20,000 people in and around Temple No. 2 to pay last respects to that honorable messenger. Many dignitaries were on hand; Jesse Jackson, former A&T State student and head of Operation PUSH, presidential assistant, Stanley Scott, and Floyd McKissick. Mayor Daley did not attend the funeral, but visited with the family. He also sponsored a resolution in the city council meeting expressing deep regret at Mr. Muhammad's passing.

Ray Williams

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