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# Interview: Save the Family Houston Tx

### By Imam W. Deen Mohammed

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: May the peace of Almighty G-d be upon you. Dear beloved people, it's good to see you again. Thank you for being with us. I know that you will not be disappointed. We have some very special things for you today. I have a very special guest with us today, Imam W. Deen Mohammed. He is a Muslim world leader, he travels all over the country teaching the message of Al-Islam, which means entire submission to the will of Almighty G-d. He teaches it to millions of people. Recently, Imam Mohammed was selected to serve on the Supreme Islamic Council of Mosques, which is headquartered in Mecca, Arabia.

I know that many of you are familiar with Imam Mohammed. We are going to discuss some of the problems that are causing great difficulty for many people in America and around the world, especially, in the family life. Brother Imam, I'd like to thank you for taking time out from your very busy schedule to be here with us.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: It's a pleasure again to be on the program Al-Islam in focus.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Thank you. We're very honored by your visit.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Thank you.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Is there anything that you would like to say to the viewers before we get started?

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: No, let's go with the program.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Well, brother Imam, to begin with, you've been traveling and visiting all of the regions here in America. The subject you've been speaking on is the concern of the individual, and also, the sacred connection. Now, would you please explain to us exactly what that means?

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Yes, life is sacred. The life that G-d intended for the human being, for human society is sacred in religion. I find that for the Framers of the Constitution in the United States, that document account for the life that we have in for its longevity as a nation. Also, points to that sacredness of life and I think, it is very important especially in these times when people are stray- going astray from the traditional life. It's very important to point back to the sacredness of life.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Now, this concern of the individual, I take it saying that is speaking of people individually and somehow, it seems to me that that is very important.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Yes, the individual—G-d begins the world with one individual. “Nafsen wahida” from one soul, one personality, one soul. He made for it its mate, so there's G-d in the core- in the holy book for Muslims. This is the same belief and for Judaism and Christianity. From them, He multiplied the people until we have what we have today, a population of 4 billion or more people on earth.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: That's very interesting, too, because you have all these different, so-called races of people, different nationalities.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: All from the same soul.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: That's good for us to know. Now, the next thing I'm interested in I see by some of the programs that you have established, and also some of the lectures that you give that you have a great concern for the pioneers of our community, in other words, the elderly people. It seems that this is one of the problems in our society today, not enough respect and concern for older people. Now, what I would like to ask you to do is it tell us why are you so concerned about the elderly, and what can be done about the whole problem?

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Yes. Again, that's required in the religion that we reverence our elderly people or senior persons. We value them as our fathers and mothers. We should also let them know that we are still open to advice from them, whether they are educated or not. Their age should have given them something that the young have not yet gotten, see? We value them very much. This is Islamic and Prophet Muhammed peace and blessings be on him, he said, "The believers known by his treatment of the elderly."

He says that they- we should be obligated to take care of our small ones, the children, and to respect our elders. This is a requirement in most religions.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Some kind of way it seems that motherhood might fit in there. The respectful for mothers that are women.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Certainly, that's a great emphasis in Islam on respect for our mothers, respect for the women.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Now, I'd like to get to your being recently selected to what I consider a very prestigious international position. A member-- well, you correct me if I'm wrong, A member of the World Supreme Council of Mosques.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: That's correct.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Okay. There, I understand there are only three people in America that are members of this council.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: One of them was an acquaintance of mine and a friend of mine. He was on the council before me, brother Asad. Professor Doctor Asad.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: As a matter of fact, I know him, too.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: You know him?

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: We went on Hajj together.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Yes, that's right.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Now, the things I really want to point out here that I think it's very important is that you are the first and only Native American to be selected for this honorable position, Am I correct?

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: I believe, that's correct.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: This is information that I really expected. Well, I don't know if I expected it, but I know it should have been done. The mass media here in America, they should have made the world know about this selection because I feel that this was an honor to our country.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: It is an honor to our country.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Well, a Native American to be selected to such a high position

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: It is an honor to our country.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: - a world position.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: I sent it as-- In fact, I accepted. Not only as the honor to the Muslim community, to the-- First, to our Muslim community and then, to the broad Islamic community of America in the world, but I accepted also as a honor, respect that's paid to a citizen of America.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: That’s the way I saw it. Also, I don't want to make a racist out of this thing, but I feel like that would have been good also for the African American people, the fact that one of there members was selected to such a high position.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Yes, I agree. I agree with you, but there's something else to be said, too. You won't say it right now.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Okay. Now the next thing I would like for you to speak on this thing about the problems in the Middle East. The thing in particular that I'm concerned about is the moral aspect. Because it seems to me that's the reason why things really can't come to any equitable peaceful terms.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: You have nothing but agreement that point to a moral aspect of life as the first place for attention when you want to solve problems, that's my belief.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Yes. I take it the scripture is the best place for that.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Certainly.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: The question I really want to ask your concern in that is why do you think that no one seems to want to use that? I don't even hear them- it's made of the Muslim leaders. Because I've witnessed some meetings and some interviews where they talk about that problem, and I know that nobody mentions G-d, nobody mentioned religious knowledge on this problem. They never talk about that, it's always like a political thing.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: That's true. To get the real innocent approach to the problem of peace and morality in the world, not just in Middle East, but in the world. You have to really be acquainted with people who in the background and people who are just doing things quietly, working with private communities and meeting in private. I would say meeting outside of the focus, outside of the media focus with people who share their values. A lot is being done, but it's not publicized. The political concerns always go out front. It seems that even the religious people when they get a viewing when they get just a media exposure, they tend to just follow that spirit of just speaking in the political voice, rather than in the religious voice.

That's a mistake of our religious leaders. When they get the media, they could understand that the same religious consciousness that enabled them to survive as a believer in that faith is needed in the public. When they come before the public, they should feel obligated to represent themselves as religious people. They're not just given to this pressure to speak in the political voice.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: In other words, that would create a balance, not just the one extreme.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Yes, the political people there, they're going to do that. Religious people should do their job.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Also, it seems to me that the principle that you spoke of concerning solving that problem and also be the answer to crime. The problem of crime in our society, because it's really getting bad.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: We always going to have crime. I don't like to put it this way, but crime began even in heaven, didn't it?

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Yes.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: The rebel Satan, he first appeared in the heavens and was sent out of there because of his criminal spirit. Ever since, we've had crime. He's the biggest criminal. Satan is the biggest criminal.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: I figured, he's the one is promoting this that we see happening in our society.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Yes, I’m sure he's enjoying it. [laughs]

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Imam, I really want to say again that I appreciate you being on the program. We've gotten some very good response from my previous program, so everybody's looking forward to seeing the ones we're coming out with now. Rabita, this supreme council that you're a member. I feel that maybe some information we should give them on that, because anything you share with us on what they're doing--

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: First of all, we attracted to Rabita. Rabita is the Muslim World League. It was founded for the sole purpose of serving our religion Al-Islam. Serving Allah, the G-d, but through the religion. By way of religious teachings, religious understanding and religious purity. It's not for Mecca, though it's based in Mecca. It's for the Islamic world, international world of Muslims.

Their interests that have won me over as admirer of their works is their interest in keeping the religion pure to its nature, pure to its purpose its spirit. They are careful not to get involved in politics, internal affairs of other nations. They come in by the front door and they leave by the front door. This have caused me to admire them and to join them. They, as you know, accepted me and nominated me to a position on the Supreme Council of Mosques. Representing the American Muslim community.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: You said something that brought something to my mind. When you say they enter by the front door and they leave by the front door, I remember reading something in Quran concerning that. That whenever you come to someone's home, that you should knock and you should wait until you're invited to enter and go in by the proper doors.

Imam Warith Deen Muhammad: By the proper doors.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: That came to my mind. That's very good. I got a good understanding. That has broader terms. Maybe sometimes, we just think of your house, but that actually goes broader terms. Very good. The administration of the council is headed by a Secretary General, Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef. The council is presided over by the well-known Islamic scholar Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Baz of Mecca, Arabia. I met him once. He's very, very--

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: I met him and the scholars, the learned men of the supreme council there. They all make me feel very humble when I met with him. They make me feel very humble. They are just as respectful of Sheikh Bin Baz as I am of them, or more so. In fact, many of them, they called him father, their father. They mean real father, not the holy father. Like a real father. I came to know Sheikh Bin Baz and I got the same feeling.

Actually, I tell my associates, my acquaintance who have correspondence with the Saudi religious council there to give greetings to my good friend and my father, Sheikh Bin Baz. He's a wonderful person. Very wonderful person. He's so open. He meet you for the first time, he's very open, very frank. If he can give you any good advice, he'll give it to you, like a father.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: I experienced that. I had the honor to be in his presence.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: His mind is superior. He has a superior intellect. His goodness and his superior intellect has kept him in that position now for some years. Many years.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: We have just a few more minutes. The youth of our society, Muslim and non-Muslim, do you have any advice that you could give them? I feel like somebody needs to give some really good advice to our youth.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: In these times, you have to be very careful how you advise anybody.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: That's true.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: The best advice I could give our youth in the short time that we have here is to advise them to be good to themselves. They should be good to themselves. Don't mistreat yourself.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: That's very good. Also, what advice would you like to give to our community as a whole, and to society as a whole?

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: To the Muslim community, the best advice I can give the Muslim community here today is to watch over the content of their Islamic life. Because we are small minority in United States. The home, many times, is not even the environment that is desired for Muslim. Because in many of our homes, we are the only Muslim in the family. Many times, the home will have to recognize the life of the non-Muslim in the home, in the family. There will be music that will be a bad influence for the Muslim. He's listening to it. They will prefer television programs.

That will be a bad influence. This is no knock against television. I got television. I watch it every day. I appreciate television, it is very valuable. Very valuable asset, but television also tells us to be selective. Tells the viewer to be selective. How you select depends upon your own life. A Muslim's life is different from a non-Muslim's life, so that should be reflected in our selection of television programs, of music, of everything. If you're not living with one who's conscious of that-- in fact, you can be living in a Muslim family, but if their members in the family who don't have that concern, then you are going to be in an environment that threatens your Muslim life.

The real content of your life, all the time. The best advice I can give is for us to be careful and watch over the essential life for Muslim. What is that? Essential life for Muslims. Be prepared to resist environmental influences, whether it be in your home, or in the streets, or anyplace. Be prepared to always be on guard and resist the environmental influences that threaten the Islamic life.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Yes, that's very good advice, brother. One last question I would like to ask, and that's concerning this, I say, gross disrespect that I've seen for women in our society. It seems like the woman has just looked upon more or less as a sex object.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: That's a commercial world. That's the commercial--

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Yes, but it's affecting so many people.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Yes, certainly. It's the doings of the commercial world. Commercial world is responsible for perpetuating that kind of disrespect. As you say, there's always a worse devil among the little devils. Because he doesn't have the sophistication of the big devil. I'm using this devil now lightly, not very seriously. You find the little wild person, immoral person in society will be influenced by the way a thing of respect is treated on media to go to even farther extremes.

These people in commercial world, they should be aware that when they disrespect sacred matters, when they disrespect women, mothers, our mothers, sex. We value sex. We have high regard for sex. Sex is a sacred thing with us. We don't have any hang-ups. Sex is a sacred thing.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: When it's commercialized, it makes you--

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: When it's commercialized, it cheapens it and it also encourages the ignorant to go farther in their ignorance. To go much further in their ignorance. The final result is that the persons in commercial world may be responsible without intent.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: I understand.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Responsible for feeding not only our morality, but also crime in our society, because they say crime is immoral. Immorality, if I give myself to the spirit of immoral behavior, then I give myself also to the open avenue of crime.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: That's right. That's right I can see that. Now, also as you were talking, it comes to my mind that the effect that that has on the children. For the children to also see these disrespectful women, it affects them. I remember once I heard you say that sometimes it affects them subconsciously and then, that comes out in the form of maybe anger or rage later in their life.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Certainly, the good nature will rebel against insults, offenses. It will rebel against it and many times the individual is not aware. I'm not speaking from my own knowledge, but these things is known by the leaders in religion and in humanities and they address these concerns themselves. In fact, most of my, I would say, language that I have for addressing problems of this nature is influenced by good programs on television, so I have more time to watch television.

I study at home a lot, I read at home a lot, I go through my mail at home a lot, so television is there and I'm there more than I'm in a library. [laughs] I'm at the television more than I'm in the library. I take advantage of these good programs on television discussing the moral trends in the society and the problems for family life. I watch those programs and I benefit from their language, so when I address these problems, I really come from that background, from that experience, from that education. That is an education. I come from that education as well as from the Quran. Everything is approved by the word of G-d. I don't accept anything unless it can stand the test of the word of G-d.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: I think, in Arabic we call it taqwa.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Taqwa, yes.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Want to please G-d in everything we do.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: Yes, that's right. Please G-d in everything we do and to be aware of the consequences if we don't give due respect to G-d. That is taqwa, so I have, first, taqwa. On that basis, I've try to utilize all the good that I can no matter what source it come from. It can be a Jewish Rabbi. If he's speaking something that I know is good and I see something that I can extract or use, I'll take it and it's good and I think that's--

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: That's a very good thing to understand.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: That accounts for our belief, for my good place in the hearts of so many of you all.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Yes, that's true, because I tell you- we're going to talk about this on another program, but when you're teaching us to be universal and I think, it broadens our scope.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: We have to, we have to be, that's Islam. Our religion, Al-Islam, is universal in scope and it require that we all recognize the universal dimension, the universal importance and don't isolate ourselves.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Brother Imam, our time always passes pretty fast, but I really want to thank you again for coming down, taking out from your business schedule to be with us, it's an honor.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammed: It's always a great pleasure. It's a great pleasure and a privilege, real privilege.

Imam Ibrahim Kamalud-Din: Right, and also we thank you