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# IWDM Study Library

# Leadership in the Name of G-d (Part 1)

### By Imam W. Deen Mohammed

Imam W.D. Mohammed: Allahu Akbar. Thank you. Praise be to Allah, thank you. We witness that G-d is one. The Lord, sustainer, keeper of the universe, cares about all of his creation and especially the models of human life for us. The prophets, upon them be peace. As it is our tradition, we witness that G-d is one, and that we witness that Muhammad is the last prophet, his servant, and his messenger. Upon him be the prayers and the peace and what follows of that traditional salute to the last prophet.

I'm very happy to be here again. For this last day program. I'm very happy and pleased with the success that we are enjoying because of the hard work of our committees. The big committee, the general committee, the executive committee and Brother Rafaj who has chaired that committee have done a marvelous job. We appreciate all of you, thank you very much.

I have in my hand a letter to me from our guest speaker who would have also spoke last night at our banquet, the beautiful banquet we had last night. Yes, beautiful banquet.

Imam Mohammed: Beautiful entertainment .That Jazz Group. When I was a teenager, the popular dance was Bebop, the popular music was Jazz. Teenagers, they knew the jazz artists. Jazz somehow helped us keep our intelligence. This, what they're listening to now is against intelligence. It's not helping us at all, the popular music of today. The music got worse and worse for the mind as time progressed.

This letter that I received from our second invited guest speaker for the banquet last night, I want to share it with you.

"My dear, Imam." This is from doctor and also Father, Harding. He is the president of a University in Indianapolis that was founded by him. That's the Martin University. This letter reads, "In the name of Allah--" I'm reading it just as he wrote it, "In the name of Allah--" If I wrote him, I would say, "In the name of G-d."

"In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful. It is with sincerest and deepest regret that I shall not be able to be with you on September 2nd, 2006, for it is a great honor to be asked to be a guest speaker at the convention. My work as president at Martin University and my stepping aside next year has been overwhelming. This has been a test of my life, but I am a spirit warrior and I know that with the grace of Allah, I will survive.

I am so honored to be your friend and to call myself a Christian, Imam. I hope this is not presumptuous, but that is what I am. I have very great reverence for my brothers and sisters of Islam especially Imam Michael Sahir, or Mikael Sahir in Arabic. Mohammed Sadiq and David Shahih, he's judge David Shahih, we know him very well and their families. I hope you will forgive my lack of presence with you on September the 2nd, 2006 but I know I will be with you in spirit. In the name of the most gracious and beneficent one, I am your friend, Reverent Father Boniface Hardin."

I want to share that with you.

Imam Mohammed: I also received as of few days ago this letter from Muslim World League, Secretary General office, Makkah Al-Mukarramah. That is honorable, Noble Makkah Al-Mukarramah, the holy city of Mecca for Muslim, Department of Cultural Affairs.

"Honorable Excellency, Warith Deen Mohammed, Member World Supreme Council of Mosque, USA. Dear brother in Islam, Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi," that means in the mercy of G-d. "The secretary general of the Muslim World League based in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, has the pleasure of presenting its best compliments to you and would like to inform you that the first World Forum of Muslim scholars and intellectuals on the unity of Muslim Ummah," Ummah is the international community of Muslim, "organized in Makkah Al-Mukarramah between the 1st and the 7th Rabi' al-awwal--" That's Islamic name of the month. "1427 Hijri," that's also the Islamic calendar "corresponding to 30th of March through 4th of April, 2006 has issued the following four documents." He goes on to give us the documents as I mentioned, went that far I will read these these documents.

The final communique of the First World Forum for Muslim scholars and Intellectuals; item two, Islamic Covenant for Common Action; item three, Final Communique of the General Assembly of the High Coordination Committee of Islamic organizations; and four, Final Communique of Media Meeting on Impact of Islamic Media and Achieving Muslim Unity.

"We are enclosing here with four copies of the said documents hoping that you will make your level best to implement possible aspects of them with the concerned bodies. We supplicate Almighty G-d to grant all to whatever serves Islam and Muslims." Then he signed, then signed off secretary-general of Muslim World league and that's Abdallah son of Abdel Mohsen At-Turki.

I think most of you know that I have been a member of the Supreme Council of Masjids is the plural for Mosque, for a good a good number of years. Though I was unable to attend this this meeting, I was invited as a scholar, they invited me as a scholar I don't claim anything. I don't claim to be a scholar but they invited me as a scholar to attend this meeting and I really wanted to be there but G-d didn't open the way for me to be there. I had the problems that I couldn't go there, difficulties for travel and some other difficulties too at home, so I couldn't be present.

I really wanted to be present because they invited me as well to present a paper on Muslim unity, and that's my cup of tea, it would have been very easy for me to present a very excellent paper to them on Muslim community that I think would have benefited them a lot but don't think they don't get some of what I'm saying in the United States on Muslim unity. I don't send it to them but they have their way of getting it, they know me very well and they keep up with me. So much for that.

Audience: Allah Akbar.

Imam Mohammed: Allah Akbar.

We are struggling and working and our spirit is getting stronger and stronger, and our results is getting more beautiful and bigger. We have our friends, the Folklore, members of the Folklore movement here, and I want to tell you what I know. They pray for the success of our good works. I know that their prayers have really helped. We thank G-d for your prayers.

Imam Mohammed: Not just in a spiritual way. See this nice-looking suit here, Italian-made, made in Italian factories and the good price we are getting? I know something happened in heaven because of your prayer, thank you so much

Imam Mohammed: We have a lot going for ourselves too and we'll never give up, never give up. We have a purpose, we have a goal, we have a mighty cause and we will never give up. I saw a little word that caught my eye in our newspaper. The expression was, "Conventioneers, conventioneers." Not the first time I heard that kind of language, I saw it conventioneers? It was published in the weekend, this weekend program and the language conventioneer. I said, "Conventioneer?" When I was a boy I loved the three musketeers, so are who these conventioneers? I got a loop obviously.

"Yes madam, yes sir. Press hard upon Sam, His spirit will surge, conventioneers and Musketeers, putting our life on the line for the poor robbed of their minds."

Thank you my brother. We leaders who lead in the name of G-d, when you lead in the name of G-d you have done something very, very serious. You're accountable to G-d. If you're not sincere you going to pay a big price one day for being a fake, a phony. We got too many phonies among these religious leaders, yes, Muslims too, I don't know who you thinking about but Muslims too, too many phonies.

Our guest speaker at the banquet last night, oh she was so good for everybody.

Dr. Oliver I know you wanted her to come back next year or sometime, I know you do, yes. A wonderful, down the earth, very intelligent, wise woman and a model Christian, a model Christian. I study the Bible, I know what Christians should have as authority in their life and I know what should be influencing their lifestyles and their behavior at home and abroad. I know that because I read the Bible too, I think I'm more aware of the Bible than majority of the Christians. I'm aware of what's in the Bible more than majority of the Christians because the majority of the Christians especially in the western United States of America they're just like the majority of the Muslims, they say they're Muslim but they don't know their Qur’an, they don't know their holy book, and the same for the Christians, they don't know their Bible. that's why we see the bad behavior we see in the neighborhoods, that's the main reason for it. Life is developmental and developmental means it progresses by stages; there's progress for our first-stage, progress for our second state. The progresses by stages.

Progressing mean, if you have moral life you're moral life should get better, your moral senses should get stronger, your intelligence should grow, that's progressing, that's how G-d made us, He made all life developmental so you should grow.

The simplest life you can think of, it becomes bigger, it grows by stages, it becomes more complex as it lives. Our religions tell us that a parable of our own life is a parable of plant life, that we can see. You plant a seed, the seed is dead, seems to be a dead thing, not living. You plant it in the right circumstances or environment, it becomes a living thing and it opens up and shows what it was locked up in itself; locked up in that small dead thing was a beautiful life, it is free from that cell, that prison cell, the dead seed is free and it comes up the beautiful life. Our food from grain appearing to be dead, corn, tomatoes, wheat, whatever it is. All the life that G-d has made serves a purpose. The grass, we take it for granted.

The grass does not only give us beautiful site for the front yard, back yard, wherever you put it, the golf course. The grass if you let it grow, it makes a cushion for the small living things that have to survive on the earth; ants and many other small creatures crawling about and crawling in and out of the soil. The grass give a cushion so when the cow step on it or you step on it, they have a cushion to protect them from being squashed or killed. Grass, wheat grass especially, it reveals its origin. Its origin is small seed that appears to be dead, it grows up and the last thing it gives you is the seed at the top. It shows you its beginning and it holds its original beginning up high.

If man be like this, the prophets will like this, the prophets of the scriptures. They had this kind of thinking and they identified with developmental growth, to a better form, bigger form and more enriched form. They saw that G-d wanted them to give back as these plants give back. They gave back, they gave more than what they originally had. They had one seed, they gave back many seeds. Some bear fruits so beautiful, flowers so beautiful and others bears food for us on our table. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday through until Sunday and over and over again, they give us food.

We should also be developmental in our life and our progress should move from stage to stage, we should not be so selfish that we don't share our lives, and give something of our life to those that are in our environment, especially to the small and the weak who will be crushed by the foot of the cow or man.

I have to speak also to our people here, the African-Americans, because that's what we are. We are black from the mother continent Africa, we are African-Americans. African-Americans are growing away from a painful memory of slavery, segregation and KKK-fashion terrorism. However, without the moral courage to support justice, when justice is also against us African-Americans, the spirit is easily fueled by fire, ginn spirit. If we don't have our minds right, we will be burned up in these fires remembering the bad times. Scars not healed can flare up when pressure is put on us a bit.

Recently, our friend Andy, US representative to the United Nations, former mayor of Atlanta city, pardon me, Georgia, he made news. I'm sure he didn't want to make that news. Our typical religious leaders, our popular politicians, too many African-Americans do not support justice when justice is against us, African Americans, against blacks.

Our friend Andy was coming from a painful memory about 100 years past in Charleston, South Carolina, Chicago and Illinois. African Americans and other parts as well of the United States had grown in business life. About 50 years passed, a tough luck remnant of die-hard survivors were bulldozed and buried more than six feet under by a system of expressways.

We had dry cleaners, drug stores, groceries, in Chicago. Dry cleaners, drug stores, groceries and meat markets, barber shops, beauty salon, tailor shops, shoe repair shops, restaurants and auto mechanics, livery cabs and jitneys; going from 31st-- we call South Park now King Drive, to 63rd going through most of the densely populated section of Chicago on the south side for our people. We had our own cab service.

We could go to South Park, take that cab and go to South Center department store that one of our members of the community, African American Christian bought from the whites. Mr Fuller, you are from Chicago, you might remember this , remember what I'm saying of Chicago Mr Fuller. He opened a department store. It was great pride for us, it lifted our souls and our spirits to get on a cab line, on a street where only our men were driving cabs. Nobody else. We could go to, from 61st where I live or wherever you lived on the south side, you could get to the South Park way and you could get in in a jitney cab owned by and operated and owned by at least an African American owned it whether the driver owned it or not, I don't know whether the driver owned it, I don't think so. The cab line was owned by African American. You could get in that cab and go to where you wanted to go in the densely populated section of the south side. From the South Park, you would then catch a street car, there were street cars back then and later buses, and go east and west. You could go north and south using the African American jitney cab line.

These businesses as Andy spoke--he's my friend, I met him, personal friend. I spent some time with him on more than one occasion. As Andy spoke, were mostly 'Mom-and Pop' stores, as we call them mom and pop stores. Not these big, massive giant super stores we have now, Walmart and others. They were small, much smaller.

Koreans, Asians, Arabs, old comers and new comers, they look at the property and the neighborhood that we ignore, they looked at our dead business, our dead business streets, they came in with their fugal ways and give life to a dead community, business life to a community that's dead business wise.

Think on how much respect the quitters can expect. Quitters, we are quitters. What are we blaming it on? We are quitters. That's what we are. When the new comers come that's what they see us as, quitters. How much respect do you think we are going to get from them looking at us and knowing we are quitters? We have to change our spirit to have a change in our life for the better. Our spirit now is not to accept criticism. If one of our own kind criticizes us to help us to help us to get us to wake up to see our shortcomings so we can help ourselves better, we immediately become enraged and treat him as though he's racist, "Well, you're not a black brother." We have to change that.

This public address is intended to give us a clear picture of ourselves that we need to look at, our collective behavior and our inherent light that all of us have at birth when we come from our mothers. We come with the same human essences, the same human worth that every other people come into this world with. There's an expression from our holy book referring to mainly to Christians and Jews. "Most of the people of the Book," our Qur’an say, "have no knowledge." If you don't have knowledge, what can you expect from people if they don't have knowledge. The ignorant