

Exclusive Interviews with: Messenger Muhammad!

EDITOR'S NOTE—In one of his infrequent interviews granted to the public news media the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the only divinely missioned leader in the world today, frankly answered the pointed questions of representatives from two of the nation's leading broadcast medias, American Broadcasting Company and the National Broadcasting Company.

Although both networks declared that the interview would be subsequently aired to the public, only a brief portion was broadcast over ABC. Because of the deep interest throughout the world concerning the views of Messenger Muhammad, MUHAMMAD SPEAKS takes this occasion to bring its readers these exclusive excerpts from these most recent interviews.

Q. WHAT is a Muslim?

A. We are Muslims. This is what we know ourselves to be and what we would like others to know us to be. We believe in peace, freedom, justice, and equality and we take no part in aggression. Muslims are good by nature.

It is taught in the Bible and Holy Qur-an that the righteous people are peaceful, not aggressive people.

WE HAVE accepted Islam since it was brought to us by the long awaited Comer, called the second coming of Jesus, or the Son of Man by the Christians. We, the Muslims, say the Mahdi or God came in Person in Master Fard Muhammad.

He has taught us the truth of ourselves and others. That truth is that we are righteous and peaceful Muslims. Muslims do not start aggressive acts against other people. We want to maintain peace and righteousness among ourselves and throughout the world.

Q. DO THE Muslims serve in the armed forces of America?

A. We have nothing to do with an individual's choice. I am referring to the so-called Negroes who have accepted the faith of Islam and have become Muslims. I am not referring to foreign Muslims, and what they do about war.

Islam happens to be the right religion with the right God, and we have reclaimed what we really are by nature. We came from the God of freedom, justice and equality and our people. We are going back to them if we have the privilege to leave what is not ours.

Q. How does one become a Muslim minister?

A. Any believer who accepts the truth that God Almighty has brought to us — in the person of Master Fard Muhammad, to Whom praise is due forever—is automatically a minister. He may start teaching this truth — even the women. They all become ministers.

WHAT IS A MUSLIM?

Do the Muslims serve in the armed forces of America?

What is the Muslim viewpoint towards the draft?

Did Muhammad Ali make an independent decision?

Is Muhammad Ali a better champion than Joe Louis?

What do you think of Martin Luther King?

Q. THEN it would be your contention that no follower of the Muslim religion in America should be forced to serve in the armed forces?

The white man is not fighting us, he is fighting God.

A. No Muslim should be forced into anything that is

contrary to his religious belief.

Q. Do you see any contradiction between the Muslim faith and boxing?

A. There is a lot of difference between boxing and the Muslim faith. Boxing is a sport. Islam is a religion.

Q. I MEAN in the Muslim religion seeking peace and boxing?

A. Muhammad was boxing when he accepted Islam. The

Christian people want him to just walk away from the title, "Champion of the World." They want him to just walk out, because he is a Muslim. If he were a Christian, it would be all

All darker people here called Negroes are born Muslim, but they did not know it.

right. Christians box and fight and go to war among themselves.

For Muhammad to give up the gloves and walk off the platform because he is a Muslim would be denying himself the credit for his performance as a fighter. His championship would be given away and not won from him in the ring as he

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The Honorable Elijah Muhammad

