

APRIL 2016

THE UNITED PEOPLEDOM of RIGHTEUSNESS

I'VE BEEN IN PRISON FOR 25 1/2 YEARS NOW. I CONVERTED TO THE RELIGION OF ISLAM IN 1992, AFTER JUST 2 YEARS OF INCARCERATION, THERE ARE MANY REASONS THAT BLACK MEN CONVERT TO ISLAM IN LARGE NUMBERS WHILE IN PRISON. I WILL TOUCH BRIEFLY ON JUST A FEW OF THEM. BUT, AT THE OUTSET, LET ME SAY THAT ISLAM NEVER NEEDS TO COERCE, CATCH OR SEDUCE ANY ONE, LET ALONE USE ANY KIND OF FORCE TO SWAY ANYONE INTO ITS RANKS. A SINCERE STUDY OF WHAT THE HOLY QURAN ACTUALLY SAYS, AND THE EXAMPLE LEFT BY THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) - THE MOST DOCUMENTED AND VERIFYABLE OF ALL PROPHETS - IS EXTREMELY PERSUASIVE, IF ONE IS SINCERE ABOUT UNDERSTANDING GOD, AND NOT SIMPLY FOLLOWING THE TRADITIONS OF OUR FATHERS, MOTHERS & FOREFATHERS, AND GRANDMOTHERS.

PRISON IS SEGREGATED, FOR THE MOST PART. AFRIKAN-AMERIKANS ARE RELEGATED TO THEIR OWN RACE AS FAR AS SOCIAL INTERACTION GOES. BLACKS ONLY PLAY CARD GAMES, DOMINOES, BASKETBALL, ECT WITH OTHER BLACKS - AT LEAST ON THE MAINLINE (THAT IS: IN REGULAR, AVERAGE-NORMAL PRISON. NOT SNI-SENSITIVE-NEEDS-YARD, OR FOP-ENHANCED-OUTPATIENT-PROGRAM). MEN AND WOMEN OF AFRIKAN DESCENT IN AMERIKA HAVE HISTORICALLY HAD TO DEAL WITH RACISM, PREJUDICE & INEQUALITY BEING LEVIED AGAINST THEM. BEING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE RANKS OF OTHERS IS AND AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR, AS WELL AS BEING TARGETED FOR ATTACK. AFRIKAN-AMERIKANS, AND OTHER "RACES", ^{AS WELL} GROUP TOGETHER SOCIALLY FOR PROTECTION & SAFETY AND FAMILIARITY.

PRISON HAS HISTORICALLY HELD 2 THE MANTRA THAT ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE. AND SINCE THERE IS POWER IN KNOWLEDGE, IT BECAME A COMMON PRACTICE FOR PRISONERS TO STUDY THEIR HISTORY AND THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. WHITES, I.E EUROPEANS, STUDIED THE HISTORY OF EUROPE & PARTICULARLY PLACES WITH A HISTORY OF CONQUERING: GERMANY & THE NAZIS, NORWAY & THE VIKINGS, ETC. MEXICAN-AMERICANS STUDIED AZTEC & THE HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND OF MEXICO BEFORE COLONIZATION BY SPAIN. AND AFRIKAN-AMERIKANS WERE INTRODUCED, OFTEN FOR THE VERY 1ST TIME TO AN AFRO-CENTRIC VERSION OF HISTORY, A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY IN AMERIKA, AND A REVOLUTIONARY SOLIDARITY THAT TRANSCENDS THE "NORMAL" TRIBAL SEPARATIONS IN LIFE ON THE STREET. ^{BECAUSE} FOR EXAMPLE, →

IF THERE IS A "RACE RIOT" IN PRISON, THE RACIAL GROUP THAT IS ATTACKING THE BLACKS IS NOT ATTACKING THEM BECAUSE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD THEY ARE FROM, NOR FOR ANY IDEOLOGY THEY MAY HOLD. ITS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE BLACK. SO BLACKS, WHO WERE BEING PERSECUTED (AS WAS HISTORICALLY USUAL), BANDING TOGETHER FOR SAFETY. AND PROTECTION ALSO WERE DELVING INTO KNOWLEDGE THAT WAS NOT COMMON IN OUR LIVES ON THE STREET, ^{BUT SUPPORTED STRENGTH & UNITY.} BEING EXPOSED TO ISLAM & HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE ITS TENETS TO CHRISTIANITY, AND GETTING A CLEAR-EYED & SOBER NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE DONE BY CHRISTIANITY TO THE AFRIKAN DIASPORA, BLACK MEN IN PRISON BEGAN TO FEEL THAT ISLAM WAS SOMETHING FAR MORE TRUE TO WHO WE ARE. AND, IT WAS SOMETHING OF OUR OWN. WED BEEN FED RELIGION THAT HAS A BLONDE HAired, BLUE-EYED JESUS AS THE PHYSICAL SON OF GOD THE CREATOR. AND UPON CLOSER INSPECTION THERE ARE JUST ^{MANY THINGS} ~~A LOT OF THINGS~~ THAT CAN ONLY BE BELIEVED & ACCEPTED BY FAITH BECAUSE THEY ARE AGAINST REASON & LOGIC. ISLAM HAS A MORE UNIVERSAL APPROACH, A ~~NON~~-RACIAL ALTRUISTIC EGALITARIANISM. A PLAIN & SIMPLE FACT IS THAT ISLAM PREACHED AND PROMOTED EQUALITY OF THE RACES FROM ITS INCEPTION.

ISLAM'S AMERICAN OFFSHOOT, THE NATION OF ISLAM, WAS GEARED TOWARD RE-ESTABLISHING THE BLACK MAN'S POSITIVE SELF-IMAGE, AND WAS ALSO OF GREAT INFLUENCE IN INTRODUCING BLACK MEN TO THE RELIGION OF ISLAM. MALCOLM X, HAVING BEGAN WITH THE NATION OF ISLAM, GRADUATED INTO UNIVERSAL ISLAM AFTER HIS TRIP TO MECCA. AND HE ALSO WAS VERY INFLUENTIAL ON THE PRISON MIND-SET FOR AFRIKAN AMERIKAN MEN.

IN MY OWN STUDY OF ISLAM IVE FOUND THERE IS GREAT DISPARITY BETWEEN THE WAY THE HOLY QURAN IS WRITTEN, ~~AND~~ THE EXAMPLE OF ITS APPLICATION, WHICH IS THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMED (PBUH), AND THE WAY IT IS PRACTICED. THERE IS SO MUCH TO SAY ABOUT THIS SUBJECT THAT IT WOULD TAKE VOLUMES, ILL HOME IN ON THE POINT. BUT I DO SUGGEST THAT IF ANYONE HAS ANY QUESTIONS YOU SEND THEM IN. EMAIL ME ON THIS SITE AND IT WILL GET TO ME & ILL RESPOND. ILL ALSO ADDRESS THIS LATER.

THE POINT I WANT TO DISCUSS IS PROGRESS; IN 2 OF ITS ASPECTS: INNOVATION &

RETARDATION.

BY PROGRESS I MEAN SIMPLY THIS: THE ENTIRE WORLD IS MOVING FORWARD. THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE AVERAGE HUMAN BEING GROWS EXPONENTIALLY ON A REGULAR BASIS. PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME. I LOVE THE RELIGION OF ISLAM AS A WHOLE, BUT I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SOME COMMON PRACTICES THAT I FEEL AT HIGHEST REEVALUATION IN THE PRESENT LIGHT OF DAY WOULD DISSIPATE.

IM AN AMERICAN & I EMBRACED ISLAM IN PRISON, IN AMERICA. BUT WHEREVER ONE IS, ONE MUST MAKE RELIGION SERVE THE HIGHEST PURPOSE POSSIBLE. I BELIEVE THE QURAN REVEALS THAT ALL GOOD & TRUE KNOWLEDGE WILL EVOLVE WITH MANKIND. IM SAYING THAT "TRUTH" WILL ALWAYS BE TRUE AT ITS CORE. BUT TIMES & CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, WE AS A CIVILIZATION CHANGE, GROW, EVOLVE. THE SAME TRUTH IS TRUE BUT AT HIGHER LEVELS.

AN EXAMPLE. IN AMERICA WE DON'T STONE PEOPLE TO DEATH. IF YOU WERE TO STONE A PERSON TO DEATH YOU WOULD BE CONSIDERED A 3RD DEGREE MURDER. BUT THE "TRUTH" BEHIND THE FEELING THAT A VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT AT THAT LEVEL REQUIRES "A DEATH" TO THE INDIVIDUAL CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY SHOOTING THE PERSON. YOU CAN RELATE TO A GUNSHOT WITH THE PERSON WHO NEVER SAY THEIR NAME AGAIN. THAT WOULD ACCOMPLISH THE GOAL OF KEEPING THE COMMUNITY CLEAN FROM THE INFECTIOUS OF DISOBEDIENCE. AND IT WOULD ALSO ALLOW A PERSON TO MOVE ON TO ANOTHER LOCATION & BEGIN A NEW LIFE.

PROGRESS: THERE WAS A TIME WHEN CHRISTIANS WERE FED TO THE LIONS, OR MADE TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH FOR SIMPLY THE ENTERTAINMENT OF THE PUBLIC. THIS WAS ONCE "NORMAL". MORE RECENTLY, IN AMERICA, IT WAS CONSIDERED "NORMAL" AND "ACCEPTABLE" TO WATCH A PERSON, FOR WHATEVER THE REASON OR NON-REASON. BUT, AS A SOCIETY WE'VE EVOLVED AND NOW HOLD LIFE AT A HIGHER VALUE - EVEN FOR OUR CRIMINALS.

IN THE HOLY QURAN THERE IS A STORY ABOUT THE PROPHET MOSES MEETING ONE OF GOD'S SPECIAL ENVOYS. HE IS KNOWN AS KHIDR. IN THE TRANSLATION "THE MEANING OF THE HOLY QURAN" BY ABDULLAH YUSEF ALI, THERE ARE EXTENSIVE FOOTNOTES ABOUT THIS STORY, FOUND AT 18: 65. THE 1ST LINE OF VERSE 65 SAYS: "SO THEY FOUND ONE OF OUR SERVANTS". THERE IS A FOOTNOTE # 24.11, WHICH READS - IN PART - "ONE OF OUR SERVANTS; HIS NAME IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE QURAN, BUT TRADITION GIVES IT AS KHIDR. ROUND HIM HAVE ->

GATHERED A NUMBER OF PICTURESQUE FOLK TALES, WITH WHICH WE ARE NOT HERE CONCERNED. KHIDR MEANS 'GREEN': HIS KNOWLEDGE IS FRESH AND GREEN, AND DRAWN OUT OF THE LIVING SOURCES OF LIFE FOR IT IS DRAWN FROM ALLAH'S OWN PRESENCE. . . HE HAS THE SECRETS OF THE PARADOXES OF LIFE, WHICH ORDINARY PEOPLE DO NOT UNDERSTAND, OR UNDERSTAND IN THE WRONG SENSE. . . "GREEN" IS A GOOD WAY TO REFER TO THE KNOWLEDGE THAT COMES TO US THRU THE PROPHETS (ASU THEM ALL). IT IS FOR ALL TIME IN ITS ESSENCE, BUT NOT IN ALL OF ITS ASPECTS. FOR ANOTHER EXAMPLE, SLAVERY NO LONGER EXISTS AS AN ACCEPTABLE CUSTOM. THERE MAY BE POCKETS OF IT HERE OR THERE, BUT ITS NOT PUBLICLY & SOCIALLY A AVEHUE FOR COMMERCE & PRODUCTION ANY MORE. THE TREATMENT OF THE SUBJECT IN THE QURAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN VALID, BUT HAS BECOME UNNECESSARY. PROGRESS.

CONVERSELY: RETARDATION (THE VERB, NOT THE NOUN). THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) DEMONSTRATED ~~WITH HIS OWN PERSONAL LIFE~~ HOW WOMEN WERE TO BE TREATED AND HE MADE PROGRESS FOR HIS TIME, BUT ABOUT 75-100 YEARS AFTER THE PROPHET'S DEATH, OLD CUSTOMS & BAD, REPRESSIVE HABITS CREEPT BACK IN. ONE WOULD LOGICALLY THINK THAT WITH THE RELIGION OF ISLAM'S FRESH INSIGHTS & ENVELOPE-PUSHING AND BOUNDARY EXPANSION, WOMEN WOULD NOT BE TREATED THE WAY THEY ARE TODAY. PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S WIVES HAD JOBS & WERE TEACHERS - IN HIS LIFETIME. THIS IS THE EXAMPLE THAT WAS SET OVER 1400 YEARS AGO, AND YET PROGRESS OF THAT TIME WAS OVERCOME BY IGNORANT IGNORANCE.

EVEN IF THAT EXAMPLE HAD NOT BEEN SET, THERE ARE TEACHINGS IN THE BODY OF ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE THAT PROMOTE LEARNING & ADVANCING IN ALL WAYS THAT DON'T CHALLENGE A CORE TRUTH REVEALED BY ALLAH (SWT). THERE WAS A TIME WHEN IT WAS THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT THAT ~~ADVANCED~~ BROKE NEW GROUND IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS & ARCHITECTURE. I AM SPEAKING ABOUT HAVING THE OUTLOOK THAT POSITIVE CHANGE IS A GOOD THING. IT SEEMS PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN STUCK IN THE TRAP OF OBSERVING THE LETTER OF THE LAW & FORGETTING ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW. EACH TIME WE MENTION ALLAH (SWT) WE SPEAK OF JUST HOW MERCIFUL & GRACIOUS HE IS. BUT WE FAIL TO SHOW THE SAME MERCY & GRACE TO ONE ANOTHER.

IN THE TIME I'VE BEEN INCARCERATED I CONSISTENTLY FOUND THAT PRISON ISLAM →

AT LEAST IN THE CALIFORNIA PRISONS I'VE BEEN INCARCERATED IN - HAVE A PARTICULAR HOMOPHOBIA. AS IS WELL KNOWN, ~~ISLAM DOES NOT~~ THERE IS NO PERMISSION FOR HOMOSEXUALITY, OR SUCH "MARRIAGES" IN ISLAM. THE POINT I'M MAKING IS THERE IS TOLERANCE FOR GAMBLING AND INTOXICATION. BY TOLERANCE I DO NOT MEAN THAT THEY ARE EMBRACED OR ENCOURAGED. BUT BEING INVOLVED WITH THEM, THOUGH FROWNED UPON IS SELDOM PUNISHED. AND IS NOT SEVERELY PUNISHED WHEN PUNISHED AT ALL. WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD A FELLOW MUSLIM EVER BE ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH ANOTHER MUSLIM, PUNISHMENT IS CERTAIN & SEVERE. I WANT TO POINT OUT THAT THE WORD "ABOMINATION" IS USED IN YUSUF ALI'S INTERPRETATION OF "THE MEANING OF THE HOLY QURAN" WHEN REFERRING TO "INTOXICANTS AND GAMBLING" ... 5:90 BUT NOT IN REGARDS TO SEXUAL INTERACTIONS UNLAWFUL.

~~IF I HAD BEEN A NATIVE OF AMERICA OR A WESTERN EUROPEAN, I WOULD HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF A CULTURE THAT IS NOT ISLAMIC. AND THEN I WOULD HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF A CULTURE THAT IS NOT ISLAMIC.~~

THE QURAN TALKS ABOUT PEOPLE HAVING GENUINE DIFFERENCES, WHEN BOTH SIDES ARE SINCERE AND NOT SIMPLY BEING CONTENTIOUS. I'M JUST RELATING WHAT I FEEL, WHAT I'VE OBSERVED AND THE POSITIONS THAT I FEEL ARE OBVIOUSLY CORRECT. I'M NOT DEBATING THIS ISSUE ON A SCHOLARLY LEVEL. BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO USE OUR REASONING ABILITY. THE RULES OF ISLAM ARE THE SAME ^{FOR} EVERY PERSON, MALE & OR FEMALE, SINGLE OR MARRIED. NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO HAVE SEXUAL CONTACT PUBLICALLY. EVERYONE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PRIVACY. IN ISLAMIC SOCIETY, YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SPY ON ANOTHER PERSON. ~~YOU~~ ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER A PERSON'S HOME WITHOUT KNOCKING AT THE DOOR & WAITING TO BE INVITED IN. OTHERWISE - NO ENTRANCE. TO ACCUSE SOMEONE OF A SEXUAL MISCONDUCT VIOLATION YOU HAVE TO HAVE 4 WITNESSES INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER. THEY MUST BE PEOPLE RESPECTED BY THE COMMUNITY. LOOK AT HOW MUCH PROTECTION ALLAH HAS GIVEN ^{THE} INDIVIDUAL. ONE WOULD PRETTY-MUCH HAVE TO INTEND TO EXPOSE ONESELF TO WIND-UP IN TROUBLE. AND BESIDES NOT SPYING OR VIOLATING PEOPLE'S PRIVACY, MUSLIMS ARE TO BE TOLERANT OF NOT ONLY EACH OTHER, BUT OTHER RELIGIONS. REFERRING TO SURAH 22: 78, THE NOBEL QURAN PAGE 431 FOOTNOTE 1: "RELIGION IS VERY EASY. AND THE STATEMENT OF THE PROPHET (PBUH) 'THE MOST BELOVED RELIGION TO ALLAH (SWT) IS THE TOLERANT - HANIFIYYAH - (IE. ISLAMIC MONOTHEISM, I.E. TO WORSHIP ALLAH ALONE AND NOT TO WORSHIP ANYTHING ELSE ALONG WITH HIM)". TOLERANCE, ESPECIALLY OF THE



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PEOPLE THAT CHOOSE TO WORSHIP ALLAH (JEHOVAH/YAWEH/JAH) THRU THIS ESTABLISHED BODY OF LAWS, KNOWLEDGE, HISTORY & WORLDVIEW.

IN THE WEST, THRU STUDY & OBSERVATION OVER A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME, ITS BECOME KNOWN & ACCEPTED THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HUMAN BEINGS WILL BE ORIENTED TOWARDS THE SAME SEX FROM CHILDHOOD - AT LEAST - SOME SAY FROM BIRTH. IT IS A NATURALLY OCCURRING FACTOR. SURELY THE CREATOR OF LIFE KNEW THIS.

THERE ARE MANY OFFSHOTS & CULTS THAT ARE SOMEWHAT BASED ON ISLAM. THERE WAS AN ORGANIZATION CALLED "AL-FATIHA" THAT WAS ORIENTED TOWARD GAY-MUSLIMS. FROM ABOUT 1997 TO 2011. THE ORGANIZER RECEIVED THREATS & A SO CALLED "FATWA" WAS ISSUED AGAINST HIM. IN FEAR FOR HIS SAFETY HE DISBANDED THE ORGANIZATION. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAD COME INTO THE ORGANIZATION FROM ALL OVER EUROPE & AMERICA. THESE WERE PEOPLE WHO ARE MUSLIM AND THEY ARE GAY - WHETHER THEY ARE SEXUALLY ACTIVE OR NOT.

I DO NOT BELIEVE IN HYPHENATED MUSLIMS. I DON'T BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE A HYPHEN BEFORE THE WORD MUSLIM; NO "SUNNI-MUSLIM", NO "SHIA-MUSLIM", NO "ARMENIAN-MUSLIM", NO "AMERICAN-MUSLIM", AND NO "GAY-MUSLIM". I WOULD NEVER ADVOCATE FOR AN ORGANIZATION FOR GAY-MUSLIMS. THIS IS BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE EITHER MUSLIM OR YOU ARE NOT. IF YOU ARE MUSLIM YOU MUST AMEND YOUR CONDUCT LIKE ALL MUSLIMS. NO ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WATCH YOUR PERSONAL INTERACTIONS AFTER ISHA (THE LAST PRAYER OF THE DAY). BUT I DO ADVOCATE FOR, AND I DO & WILL SEEK TO ESTABLISH A PLACE WHERE NOBODY CARES IF YOU ARE STRAIGHT OR GAY, JUST LIKE NO ONE CARES IF YOU ARE BLACK OR WHITE.

THIS WILL BE THE UNIVERSAL PEOPLE HOOD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. ITS FOR PROGRESSIVE, MODERN, SINCERE PEOPLE OF GOD IN ALL STRIPES & COLORS.

— MORE ABOUT THIS NEXT TIME —

Yours Truly,
ST. MICHAEL
ZAWAB ~~DIAMOND~~

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