

SUNDAY LECTURE STUDY GUIDE

OCTOBER 6 2024

STUDENT IN THE MINISTRY JOSEPH MUHAMMAD

Short-Answer Questions

1. What is the significance of the "Final Call" newspaper in the Nation of Islam?
2. According to Student Minister Rodney Muhammad, how does the story of Abraham relate to the Nation of Islam?
3. Why does Student Minister Rodney Muhammad emphasize the importance of self-improvement?
4. What metaphor does Student Minister Joseph Muhammad use to illustrate the importance of listening to one's inner voice?
5. What are the six "devils" that Student Minister Joseph Muhammad identifies within individuals?
6. How does Student Minister Rodney Muhammad distinguish the Nation of Islam from the Moorish Science Temple of America?
7. What point does Student Minister Rodney Muhammad make about Pluto's discovery in 1930?
8. What is the significance of the number seven in the Nation of Islam's cosmology?
9. Why does Student Minister Rodney Muhammad quote the biblical passage about trees and their fruit?
10. What is the role of Minister Louis Farrakhan in the Nation of Islam, according to the speakers?

Short-Answer Key

1. The "Final Call" newspaper is a vital tool for disseminating the teachings of the Nation of Islam, serving as a source of truth, guidance, and instruction for its followers.
2. Student Minister Rodney Muhammad highlights Abraham's prayer for his offspring to become a nation submissive to God, drawing a parallel to the Nation of Islam's mission and identity as the fulfillment of that prayer.
3. Self-improvement is emphasized as a prerequisite for community development, reflecting the Nation of Islam's focus on personal growth as a foundation for broader societal upliftment.

4. **Student Minister Joseph Muhammad compares ignoring one's inner voice to disregarding a warning sign while driving, leading to negative consequences like accidents, delays, or wrong decisions.**
5. **The six “devils” are laziness, anger, fear, ego, jealousy, and doubt. These represent negative qualities that hinder personal development and should be combated with their positive counterparts.**
6. **Student Minister Rodney Muhammad distinguishes the Nation of Islam by its direct connection to Allah (God) through Master Fard Muhammad, contrasting with Noble Drew Ali's Moorish Science Temple, which had a different origin and focus.**
7. **Pluto's discovery is likened to the emergence of Master Fard Muhammad, both arising from obscurity to bring light and change during a time of global crisis (the Great Depression).**
8. **The number seven represents a cycle of time in the Nation of Islam’s cosmology, with the 7,000-year rule of Yakub's white race ending and a new era for Black people under Master Fard Muhammad beginning.**
9. **The biblical passage about trees and their fruit is used to illustrate the idea that actions and outcomes reveal a person's true nature. The Nation of Islam's positive work is presented as evidence of its divine origin and righteous path.**
10. **Minister Louis Farrakhan is presented as the chosen successor to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, continuing his mission and leading the Nation of Islam in the present day.**

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the role of scripture, both the Quran and the Bible, in the teachings presented by Student Minister Rodney Muhammad. How does he interpret and apply these texts to support the beliefs and mission of the Nation of Islam?
2. Discuss the concept of self-improvement as presented by the speakers. What specific practices or principles do they advocate for cultivating individual growth, and how do these practices contribute to the broader goals of the Nation of Islam?
3. Explore the Nation of Islam’s cosmology and its view of history. How do their teachings explain the origins and current state of humanity, particularly regarding the relationship between Black and white people?
4. Critically examine the rhetoric used by the speakers in the excerpts provided. What persuasive techniques do they employ, and how do these techniques appeal to their audience and advance their message?
5. Compare and contrast the leadership and teachings of Master Fard Muhammad, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and Minister Louis Farrakhan. How has the Nation of Islam evolved under their guidance, and what continuities and changes are evident?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Allah:** The Arabic word for God, central to the Islamic faith and used by the Nation of Islam to refer to the Supreme Being.
- **Master Fard Muhammad:** The founder of the Nation of Islam, believed to be the embodiment of Allah in person. He arrived in Detroit in 1930 and began teaching Elijah Muhammad.
- **Honorable Elijah Muhammad:** The leader of the Nation of Islam from 1934 to 1975. He systematized the teachings of Master Fard Muhammad and led the organization through a period of significant growth and influence.
- **Minister Louis Farrakhan:** The current leader of the Nation of Islam, appointed by Elijah Muhammad as his successor. He is known for his powerful oratory and focus on Black empowerment and self-reliance.
- **Yakub:** In the Nation of Islam's creation mythology, Yakub is a Black scientist who created the white race through selective breeding.
- **The Final Call:** The official newspaper of the Nation of Islam, used to disseminate its teachings, news, and perspectives.
- **Self-Improvement:** A core tenet of the Nation of Islam, emphasizing personal development through spiritual, moral, and economic upliftment.
- **MGT (Muslim Girls' Training) and FOI (Fruit of Islam):** The women's and men's organizations, respectively, within the Nation of Islam, promoting discipline, service, and adherence to the teachings.
- **The Million Man March:** A historic gathering organized by Minister Louis Farrakhan in Washington, D.C., in 1995, calling for Black men to take responsibility for their communities and families.

This study guide provides a comprehensive overview of the key themes and ideas presented in the provided excerpts, equipping you with the knowledge to engage in thoughtful analysis and discussion.

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The History of the Nation of Islam: A Study Guide

Short Answer Questions

1. **According to Student Minister Rodney Muhammad, how do the stars receive their light? What is the significance of this analogy?**

2. What is the significance of the number 76 in the Nation of Islam's teachings? How does this relate to the concept of a changing world?
3. Student Minister Muhammad emphasizes the importance of "zeal" for being a Muslim in the modern world. What challenges does he believe Muslims face today, and how does zeal help overcome them?
4. Describe the "slave mentality" mentioned by Student Minister Muhammad. How does he suggest this mentality was produced and how does it continue to affect Black people?
5. Explain the significance of Abraham's prayer in the context of the Nation of Islam's origin. How does this prayer connect to the history of Black people in America?
6. Why does Student Minister Muhammad argue that Marcus Garvey's Negro Improvement Association was not a suitable solution for the problems faced by Black people?
7. According to Student Minister Muhammad, what was the central teaching of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad regarding the identity of Black people? How does this differ from the idea of a "Negro"?
8. What is the significance of Master Fard Muhammad's use of the Quran in relation to the teachings of Noble Drew Ali? What point does Student Minister Muhammad make with this distinction?
9. How does Student Minister Muhammad use the biblical analogy of trees and their fruit to explain the importance of judging individuals and movements by their actions and outcomes?
10. What historical event does Student Minister Muhammad highlight as an example of the Minister Louis Farrakhan's ability to mobilize the Black community? What was the significance of this event?

Answer Key

1. The stars borrow fire from the sun, ultimately having their origin in it. This is analogous to the Nation of Islam's belief that their guidance and strength originate from a divine source, symbolized by the sun.
2. 76 represents the universe's diameter in miles and signifies the end of 6000 years of enemy rule and the beginning of a new era led by God. This relates to the concept of a changing world by emphasizing the transition to a divinely guided future.
3. Muslims face a world obsessed with power and hostile towards their independent beliefs. Zeal, characterized by unwavering conviction and action, is needed to withstand these challenges and uphold Islamic principles.
4. The "slave mentality" is characterized by submissiveness, self-hatred, and a lack of self-reliance. It was instilled through centuries of slavery and Jim Crow, and it continues to hinder Black people's progress by discouraging independence and self-belief.

5. **Abraham's prayer for his offspring to become a nation submissive to God foreshadows the Nation of Islam's belief that they are the fulfillment of that prayer. The prayer connects to the history of Black people in America as they endured suffering and affliction in a strange land, mirroring the plight of Abraham's descendants.**
6. **Student Minister Muhammad argues that the concept of "Negro" signifies death and cannot be improved. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught that Black people are not inherently "Negroes" but divinely created beings. Therefore, focusing on "Negro" improvement ignores their true nature and potential.**
7. **The Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught that Black people are not "Negroes" but the original people of the earth, divinely created. This counters the dehumanizing label of "Negro" imposed by white supremacy and emphasizes Black people's inherent dignity and potential.**
8. **Master Fard Muhammad used the Quran with 114 surahs, unlike the fragmented text attributed to Noble Drew Ali. This suggests that Master Fard Muhammad's teachings drew from a more authentic and complete Islamic tradition, implying a distinct and superior foundation for the Nation of Islam.**
9. **Just as good trees produce good fruit and bad trees produce bad fruit, individuals and movements are judged by their actions and outcomes. This highlights the importance of examining the practical results of teachings and beliefs rather than relying solely on rhetoric or claims.**
10. **The Million Man March in 1995 demonstrated Minister Farrakhan's ability to unite and mobilize Black men for a common purpose. This event defied attempts by organizations like the ADL to discourage participation and showcased the Black community's power and resilience.**

Essay Questions

1. Analyze Student Minister Muhammad's use of astronomical events to support the Nation of Islam's historical narrative. How do these events function as signs, and what is their significance in understanding the Nation's origins?
2. Examine the concept of purification in Student Minister Muhammad's lecture. What are the specific elements that Black people need to be purified from, and how do these elements connect to the Nation of Islam's goals of self-reliance and independence?
3. Explore Student Minister Muhammad's critique of the concept of integration. What historical and philosophical arguments does he present to challenge the notion that integration is the solution to the problems faced by Black people?
4. Discuss the significance of the "lost sheep" metaphor in Student Minister Muhammad's lecture. How does this metaphor connect to the Nation of Islam's understanding of Black people's history and their relationship to God?
5. Analyze the role of self-independence in Student Minister Muhammad's lecture. How does he define self-independence, and how does this concept relate to the Nation of Islam's vision of Black empowerment and liberation?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Allah:** The Arabic word for God, used by Muslims.
- **Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim:** A phrase meaning "In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful," recited at the beginning of most actions in Islam.
- **Chattel Slavery:** A system of slavery where enslaved people are treated as the legal property of the slave owner.
- **Cosmic:** Relating to the universe or cosmos.
- **Divine:** Relating to or proceeding from God.
- **Hades:** The Greek god of the underworld.
- **Jim Crow:** State and local laws enacted in the Southern and some border states of the United States between 1877 and the mid-1960s that mandated racial segregation.
- **Mahdi:** In Islamic eschatology, a spiritual and temporal leader who will appear at the end of time to rid the world of evil and injustice.
- **Messianic:** Relating to a messiah, a savior or liberator of a people.
- **M.G.T. Card:** A card carried by members of the Nation of Islam that identified them as Muslims and outlined their beliefs.
- **Nation of Islam:** A religious and socio-political movement founded in the United States in the 1930s by Wallace Fard Muhammad.
- **Pluto:** The Roman god of the underworld.
- **Prophet:** A person regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God.
- **Quran:** The central religious text of Islam, which Muslims believe to be a revelation from God (Allah).
- **Requisite Knowledge:** Knowledge that is essential or indispensable for a particular purpose.
- **Salaam Alaikum:** An Arabic greeting meaning "Peace be upon you."
- **Shriners:** A fraternal organization associated with Freemasonry.
- **Submissive:** Inclined or ready to submit to the authority or will of another person.
- **Sura:** A chapter of the Quran.
- **Theological Seminary:** An institution for the training of clergy or other religious leaders.
- **Torah:** The first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

This study guide is designed to help you review and understand the complex history of the Nation of Islam as presented in Student Minister Rodney Muhammad's lecture. Use this as a tool to deepen your knowledge and engage critically with the material.