

## A BRIEF COMMENTARY ON THE COURSE

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In "The Will of God (Part I)", the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan writes,

"Everything in Creation is the manifestation of the Will of God...when He says 'Be!' He summons the Power of His own Being, His Creative Mind and Will, to bring about that which He Wills."

In light of these words, we can attribute nothing to coincidence (mere chance). The Course he wrote, entitled **Self-Improvement: The Basis for Community Development**, was first a lecture, delivered in the city of Phoenix, Arizona, September 21, 1986, by the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. "Phoenix" is the name given to a legendary bird of extraordinary beauty. Reputedly the only one of its kind, it lives more than 500 years in the Arabian wilderness. At the end of that time, the bird burns itself completely, then rises from its own ashes, brand new, to live another cycle of centuries. It's image is a symbol of immortality. Three months after that historic speech, the Minister introduced an entire course centered around the study of self. Here are two brief excerpts from his letter of introduction:

"The rising to life of the spiritually dead and the Great Resurrection are one and the same. And the first stage of our spiritual resurrection occurs through the stimulation of our self-accusing spirit; that is, when the inner voice speaks, guides, warns, reproves, exhorts and accuses us of going contrary to

what is right...This phase of our development is designed, by the Help of Allah(God), to bring about a transformation or complete change in our lives. This is done by stimulating self-analysis and self-correction in us. Our self-improvement actually brings into fruition the awesome power of Allah(God) to 'make complete his(our) whole make.'{H.Q. 75:4} "  
(special emphasis added)

The image of the phoenix burning itself and rising from its own ashes is a mere illustration of something even more extraordinary. Those who submit themselves to "this process of heeding truth and right guidance" are destined to be transformed.

It is critical for us to realize that the Course is **inspired**. As its title indicates, the Course is a teaching device; however, it is not an academic exercise conceived by the Minister to impress us with his range of knowledge. Those who perceive it as that, fall off the mountain before the climb begins, because they immediately begin to compare it with the work of various intellectuals among us. When that happens, they become bored and abandon the Course for something more "challenging". Alexander the Great wept because he had no more worlds to conquer, but he died an alcoholic at the age of 32. When people are allowed to have power and authority with no self-awareness, we all suffer.

Review the Minister's letter of introduction. The curriculum is explained as "study sessions" on both theoretical and practical levels. It is not a treatise written by a theologian sharing his thoughts. It is Revelation to a servant of Allah(God) for the salvation of a people. This is a man who is speaking through life's experiences. When he says, "there is a difficulty factor attached to

everything of value", he knows what he is talking about. Without practical application --- if the student does not use the principles in daily life--- the Course will not produce thought reversal and we will not experience a change.

However, if the student does apply the theory to life, then upon completion of the units currently available, he or she will begin a new cycle but on a higher plane, at a quicker vibratory rate.

Let us take, as an example, the very first study guide, entitled, "**Mixed Feelings & Controversy:How Do We Handle It?**". When Minister Farrakhan went to Phoenix in 1986, mixed feelings and controversy surrounded his presence. At that time, he spoke in Plaza Symphony Hall.

In 1995, he was again surrounded by mixed feelings and controversy, within a whole new reality. He stood in front of the nation's capitol and addressed a gathering of nearly 2 million Black men. Obviously, some growth had occurred in that 9-year period. He was back to Study Guide Number 1, but this time the journey through the Course was measured in months instead of years. Immediately thereafter, he embarked upon his World Friendship Tour, creating another storm of controversy and moving at yet a faster vibratory rate. The time within which he was able to execute Allah's(God's) Plan decreased even further, measured in weeks instead of months.

The only request the Minister makes is that the student apply the principles; use them. It is only their use that will give them real meaning and confirm their truth.

More than one study guide grew out of a serious difficulty encountered by an individual. It will come as a surprise to you that **Study Guide 16, "The Law of God"**, evolved from a letter written to a Laborer. **Study Guide 14, "Respect for Authority"**, began as a letter the Minister wrote to a young woman who had been wrongfully imprisoned. As I recall, she was in such conflict with the prison officials, her sentence could have been lengthened. As a direct result of the Divine Guidance she received through our Leader, she was able to successfully complete the time and has rejoined our struggle for liberation.

Similarly, **Study Guide 13, "The Price of Redemption"** was written for a particular event in the Nation's history: the repurchase of our Mosque, which the Minister named "Maryam".

I simply cannot overemphasize the power that is contained in this Course. Perhaps the Minister's generosity in giving this Divine Wisdom away so freely has been misinterpreted. Is it possible to make someone recognize the value of what he or she has deliberately thrown away? It is not easy; the person obviously threw it away because he placed no value in it. Perhaps if he is shown that his miserable condition is directly related to being without it, then he is allowed to see it one more time, he may be able to change his mind about its worth.

More than a decade has passed since the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan presented us with the first of the 18 units of study we have received thus far. It is known throughout the world that Allah(God) gave the Minister the gift of teaching. However, I am not sure if we all realize he first and always maintains the attitude and posture of a student:

"I met a man who taught me and I am not the same old Negro I once was. I am a man now with healing in my wings and yet I am a student of another man...We have got to give credit where credit is due. I met a man and that man is a doctor. He doctored on me, so that I could doctor on you. That man is Elijah Muhammad."

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Many people love to teach, but care little for learning. Over the years, I have watched the Minister as he listened intently to clergymen, physicians, lawyers, educators, politicians, businessmen, artists and athletes while they answered his sincere questions about the details of their field or profession. Long after others have become bored or distracted, he remains alert. He loves to learn. He does not envy achievement, he admires it.

Those who desire to be successful should also take note of yet another rare attribute the Minister possesses. I have been in the Nation of Islam for 16 years and have worked closely with Minister Farrakhan for 11 of those years. I have never, ever, known him to engage in idle conversation of any sort. Yes, he is pleasant and he has a sense of humour. But he is committed to the Work of his Father, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Time is never wasted in his company. He is completely devoted to Allah and His Messenger. I have spent hours at a time, alone with the Minister in his office, and he has always been the most excellent example of proper conduct-- in speech as well as manners. This is a man who not only respects women, he teaches women to respect themselves. I can declare without fear of contradiction: anyone who would ever charge this man with indecency can only belong to Satan.

If asked to describe the Minister's 'aura', in one word, I would choose "serene". Even in the heat of battle with the most vicious enemies of our liberation, the serenity remains. The Peace of God cannot be shattered. The question for us is, how do we achieve the peace and tranquility our Minister possesses?

Beloved, we marvel at the Works our Minister performs but where is the "**complete change**" in our lives? Can't we see that he teaches us only to make us greater than himself? Yet, we lag so far behind, we have become a burden to him as well as ourselves. How long will we be permitted to ask for what we already have? The study guides are the means of our transformation!

What will finally bring an end to the long, dark winter of our disappointment with life? Where, when, how will we find real love, spiritual fulfillment, success and recognition? The gravitational pull of "what is" makes it very hard to implement "what ought to be". Moving out of the darkness of ignorance into the Light of Knowledge is not just a step, it is an odyssey.

After engaging in this study, we should want to "Rise above Emotion into the Thinking of God". Emotion will not change our circumstances. When all is said and done, only faith, hard work, and the **Holy Qur'an's** assurance that "Allah is with the steadfast", will get us to our goal.

The Thinking of God is unbound by space or time and embraces an appreciation of the value in each and every one of us. Never underestimate the power in your own ability to perceive worth in every human being--particularly yourself. It will absolutely determine the extent of your success in life. This can be proven in no limit of time.

In the aftermath of the Million Man March, the most blind among us can see it was Divinely-inspired. Nearly two million Black men came together in nearly perfect love and peace. Many of our most virulent enemies have acknowledged that were it not for Minister Louis Farrakhan, the Million Man March simply would never have happened. Just as the number of persons who argue that Jesus was a Caucasian has steadily dwindled, only the insane will fight against the self-evident.

Even more significant for us is the reality that no one else could have thought of the Million Man March. How do we know this? Because there is nothing within the framework of the white man's world that would allow any of us to have such a thought. Therefore, we know that it was the Thinking of Allah(God). In order for Allah(God) to use us as a conveyor of His Thinking, we have to have the kind of thoughts He has.

One way we can measure our progress in life is by calculating how long it takes to complete our various goals and objectives on a daily, weekly, monthly, yearly basis. A spiritually and intellectually developed person is effective in dealing with people and getting things done.

Again, as pointed out in the beginning of this Commentary, look at how long it took Minister Farrakhan to carry out Allah's Idea for the Million Man March. Two years? Five years? It was accomplished in a matter of months. His World Friendship Tour was accomplished in a matter of weeks.

What are your thoughts and feelings about your future? What are your plans for tomorrow? Next week? Next year? Are you struggling with painful personal problems? Are your relationships (spouse, parent, child, friends, etc.) what you want them to be? Is there drug addiction, illness or disease to contend with? Financial instability? Now expand your mind to include the concerns of our community, our Nation, the world. It is difficult and confusing to even acknowledge the existence of these problems, so most of us don't.

We depend upon Minister Farrakhan to lead us, guide us, teach us, think for us, singlehandedly protect us from the enemies of our liberation. Is it rational to expect our blessings to flow from him or are we guilty of being unjust? Many of us will not even make the effort to develop spiritually, intellectually and materially, though he has given us the resources we need directly from Allah Himself. We are like a man in a house where another has brought in good food and cooked it, but the man still starves to death because he is too lazy to eat. Many of us have been exposed to the Teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad for years, without any improvement whatsoever in ourselves or our circumstances. Some of us are actually a burden to our Minister and the Nation. How long do we think Allah will permit it?

**"And the judging on that day will be just, so as for those whose good deeds are heavy, they are successful. And for those whose good deeds are light, those are they who ruined their souls because they disbelieved in our messages. And certainly We have established you in the Earth and made therein means of livelihood for you; little it is that you give thanks!" Holy Qur'an 7:8-10**