December 3, 2010

Dear Fellow Students,

We hope that you will enjoy the *Course of Study* that our beloved Minister has put us on and we know that our going back to “The Beginning” and reviewing what the Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught, will strengthen our foundation in preparation for the work that is before us.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught us the reality of God and the Devil. He taught us of the making of the Caucasian people and referred to them as “devils”. The focus of our study on Friday for the next 2 weeks deals with the “Evolution of the Divine Message” (page 28-35) from the Book by Brother Jabril Muhammad, entitled Closing the Gap, beginning with “The Origin and Evolution of Gaps” (page 26-28). Why after over 30 years of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad’s Teaching of the white man being the devil did he advise his servant, Minister Louis Farrakhan, “to stop using the term “devil,” but to use the term “Satan;” “the enemy;” or the “slave-master’s children,” in describing Caucasian people?” These instructions from The Honorable Elijah Muhammad to his servant are critical in our maturation of the Divine Teachings and Message.

May Allah bless us with the light of understanding as we continue the study to qualify ourselves to be great helpers in the Cause of Allah.

Sincerely,

Your brother and servant,

*Ishmael R. Muhammad*

Student Minister Ishmael Muhammad
National Assistant Minister to the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan
As Salaam Alaikum!
Welcome to the NOI Study Course. We hope and pray that Allah will bless you with a productive study and a deeper understanding of the Teachings of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad.
Study Course Instructions
This study course is designed to be done both in a course room / mosque or self-paced at home. Certain parts of this course (Key Word Study) will be done with a partner. Other parts will be done independently (by yourself). When its time to partner, you and your partner (twin) are to follow the steps provided in this guide. The study course is laid out in the order you do them. It is important not to skip any steps of the guide.

Purpose of this Study Course Guide:
The purpose of this study course guide is to guide you through the study of CLOSING THE GAP, specifically focusing on the origin and evolution of gaps and the evolution of the divine message.

Time to Complete:
Although the hour and a half that we have for study this evening will hopefully allow you to progress through most of this study, however it is strongly recommend that you continue to work on this study course at home at your own pace.

Important Note: During the study course session, if you have any questions during your study raise your hand for assistance. Each believer (student) should have a copy of this study course and its instructions to take home and continue studying on their own.

Study Course Steps
Step 1: Key Word Clearing  
Time Frame: 30 min
Key words are important words related to key concepts found in the reading. Having a good understanding of the meanings of these words will help each student better understand the important concepts and ideas of the study as well as eliminate misunderstandings that come with misunderstood words. Use the key word list and definitions found in this packet to do the drill (exercise) a and b.

1.) Select a partner (closest to you) and study the Key Words together, through reviewing the questions and answers to master. (If done in course room or mosque/study group the time allotted is 30-45 minutes)

   a. First time through: The student has the questions and answers in front of him or her. The partner asks the student the question, and the student answers it. He/She can look at the answer if needed. The answer does not have to be word-for-word or memorized; just the concept must be correct.

   b. Second time through: Once finished with the drill the first time, you start again from the beginning, this time without the answers in front of you. Your partner asks the question and you answers. If the answer is incorrect, your partner shows you the answer. Look at the answer again and repeat until you have grasped the concept, then continue to the next one.

Step 2: Independent Reading
Time Frame: 30 min
After completing step one you may begin to read CLOSING THE GAP pages 26-35.

Step 3: Check Your Understanding Questions
Each question is formulated to check your understanding of the key concepts and ideas found in the reading. Answer each question on a sheet of paper and be prepared to discuss your answer at the conclusion of this study class session.
STEP 1: Key Word Clearing

What is a **gap**?
A gap is a hole or opening, as in a wall or fence, made by breaking or parting; breach. It is an interruption of continuity in space or time. Also, a lag or disparity between conditions, ideas, natures, etc.

What does **evolve** mean?
Evolve means to develop gradually by a process of growth and change; unfold. It also means to set free or give off (gas, heat, etc.) Also, to produce or change by evolution.

What does it mean to **keep pace**?
To keep pace means go at the same rate as others as to not fall behind. It also means to maintain the same rate of progress.

What is a **mission**?
A mission is a sending out or being sent out with authority to perform a special service. It is the sending out of persons by a religious organization to preach, teach, and convert. It's the sending out of persons to a foreign government to conduct negotiations. Also, the work done by such persons.

What is a **stage**?
A stage is the distance or a part of a route between two stopping places; leg of a journey. It is also a period, level, or degree in a process of development, growth, or change.

What is a **helper**?
A helper is one that helps; an assistant. A help is also one who tries to make things easier or better for a person. A helper is one who does a part of a larger work to ease and share the labor. A helper is one who gives to one in need that which is necessary, as in relief or support.

What is a **devil**? (dictionary)
A devil is the chief evil spirit, a supernatural being subordinate to, and the foe of, God, and the tempter of human beings; Satan. A devil is a very wicked or malevolent person, also a person who is mischievous, energetic, reckless. (Origin: diabolos, slanderous, diaballein, to slander, lit., throw across)

What is a **devil**? (Supreme Wisdom Lessons)
A grafted man which is made weak and wicked, or any grafted live germ from original, is devil.

What is **rebellion**?
Rebellion is an act or state of armed resistance to one’s government. Also, defiance of or opposition to any kind of authority or control. (Latin: rebellare < re-, again + bellare, to wage war)

What is an **enemy**?
An enemy is a a person hostile to an idea or cause. A Person who hates another, and wishes or tries to injure him; foe. It also means a nation or force hostile to another; military or wartime adversary.

What is a **slave master**?
A slave master is one exercised absolute power over the life, fortune, liberty and will of another human being often depriving the slave of the necessities of life.

What does it mean to be **responsible**?
Being responsible involves accountability, obligation, or duties. It also means to be required to give account, as of one's actions or of the discharge of a duty or trust.

What does it mean to **filter**?
To filter something means to remove or separate (solid particles, impurities, etc.) from a liquid or gas by means of a filter.
STEP 2: READ CLOSING THE GAP (pages 26 - 35)
• Part 1: The Origin and Evolution of Gaps
• Part 2: Evolution of The Divine Message

STEP 3: Check Your Understanding
You can use your book if you need help answering the questions. Write your answers below or on a sheet of paper.

Week 1 Questions

1. What causes gaps to occur between a divine leader and his followers? Give clear examples.

2. What is needed for gaps to be closed?

3. Why did the Honorable Elijah Muhammad advise His minister to stop using the term “devil,” but to use the term “Satan,” or the “slave-master’s children,” in describing Caucasian people?