

# Master Fard's Deceptions and Doctrines

(Farrakhan Controversy Part V.)

Sergeant Sam Smith

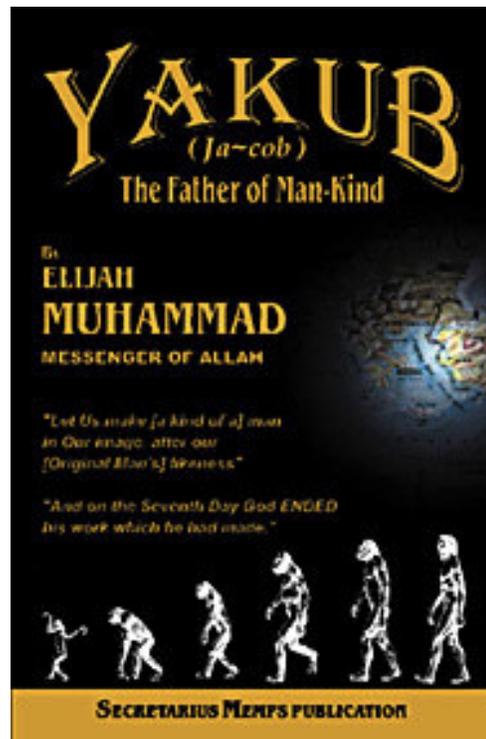
Master Fard Muhammad told his eager listeners that black America had been craftily deceived by the dominant Caucasian society, a perverse race of “*blue-eyed devils*” who used the Bible to enslave black people. The white man’s heaven, he often said, was the black man’s hell.<sup>1</sup> (This is also the title of a song recorded by calypso singer, Louis Farrakhan in the 1950s).

## The Yacub Doctrine

Fard Muhammad taught the *Yacub Doctrine* which held that the black race was divine (god-like) by nature and created by Allah out of the darkness of space. The inferior, white race was created by an evil scientist named Yakub, on the island of Patmos. It took Yakub 600 years to whiten his subjects and the reign of the *white devils* lasted for 6,000 years and it ended in 1914.

According to Fard, the true religion of black people was Islam. Allah was their “true” god, and the Holy Qur’an was their “true” book. Christianity was the religion of white slave owners who enforced it on their subordinated, black slaves. Fard’s audience was keenly aware that the white Christian culture was the same culture that (in spite of its positive accomplishments) sired the Ku Klux Klan, the Jim Crow laws, racism, murder, castration, and unrestricted exploitation of Negro workers. Fard’s logic was simple. If Christianity was the religion of the oppressive, white society, then its god must be Satan. Thus the alternative offered by “Master Fard” to America’s black people was a complete rejection of Christianity and conversion to Islam.<sup>2</sup>

However, Fard’s religion was **not Islam** (originated in Arabia), but a contradictory, hodge-podge blend of Islam, Jehovah’s Witness doctrine, Gnosticism, ufology, and heretical Christian teachings. Fard mixed into his unique bland of pseudo-Muslim theology the apocalyptic writings of Joseph Rutherford (president of Jehovah’s Witness), Van Loon’s *Story of Mankind*, Breasted’s *The Conquest of Civilization*, the Quran, the Bible, and the literature of Freemasonry.<sup>3</sup>



He encouraged his followers to buy radios so they could listen to the radical broadcasts of Joseph Rutherford (pictured to the right), whose rallying cry at that time was “*Religion is a snare and a racket.*” Fard also used Jehovah’s Witness literature to teach his followers that the time of “Gentile” (Caucasian) domination had ended. The resurrection of the “*so-called Negro*” had already occurred as a mental and invisible fact, and that the coming New World was just around the corner. Master Fard claimed that in just a few years the oppressed black man would receive the kingdom and the New World would arrive by 1936 at the very latest.<sup>4</sup>



Fard’s doctrines were transmitted orally in *The Secret Ritual of the Nation of Islam*, which had to be memorized verbatim, and also in book form in *The Teaching for the Lost Found Nation of Islam in a Mathematical Way*, distributed only to registered, loyal followers.

Master Fard required his followers to give up their surnames (slave-names) and he would give them a new name, not an African name, but an Arabic name. He taught that the black man was not African, not even Arabic, but “Asiatic” in origin. Years later when Malcolm Little (Malcolm X) registered for the draft he wrote “Asiatic” under the category of race.<sup>5</sup>



The presence of Islam in eastern countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as the Middle East, may have led Fard to conclude that it was the historical faith of Asian peoples as a whole. However, this aspect of his thinking was more than likely influenced by his one-time mentor, Timothy Drew, better known as Noble Drew-Ali, the founder of the Moorish Science Temple of America. Drew-Ali taught that all non-Europeans are in fact part of a unified Asian race, which he called "Moorish."

According to Fard’s successor, Elijah Muhammad, Master Fard taught that **black people**, both individually and as a race, **were gods**. Furthermore, they were a series of special gods who would live for hundreds of years at a time. (In March of 1971, Joe Frazier met the militant, Nation of Islam member, Muhammad Ali in a boxing ring in Madison Square Garden. During their legendary fight, Ali taunted Frazier by saying, “*Don’t you know I’m God?*”) <sup>6</sup>

Besides Fard's claims about the origins of the white race, one of his more exotic stories was about the "Mother Plane" or "Mother Ship," an aircraft built by black scientists in Japan many thousands of years ago. This aircraft, undetectable by radar, still circled the earth and carried powerful weapons which would be used on white America if she dared to harm the members of the Nation of Islam.<sup>7</sup>

### Master Fard's Mythologies

"According to Fard, the world was initially ruled by members of a black race who were known as the original men. Theirs was a highly advanced civilization, and their scientists formed mountains and seas, covered the land with animals, and blasted the moon, which had been part of the earth, into the sky. Some of the original men settled in Arabia and became known as the Tribe of Shabazz"<sup>8</sup> (Malcolm X's widow adopted the last name of Shabazz.) "They lived in peace, worshipping Allah from the holy city of Mecca, until evil entered the world in the form of a mad scientist named Yacub. Full of pride, Yacub broke the laws of Islam and was exiled from Mecca. His heart set on vengeance, he applied his knowledge of genetics to create a race of immortal men, the white devils.

The whites caused endless trouble for the blacks until they were herded together and exiled to the cold wasteland of Europe. Allah then sent his black prophets Moses and Jesus to convert the white devils to Islam. Instead the whites distorted the prophets' teachings and founded the blasphemous religions of Judaism and Christianity.

Fulfilling an ancient prophecy, the whites gained dominion over the entire world. They transported millions of blacks from Africa to the Americas in slave ships and stripped them of their language and cultural heritage. Along the way, blacks were brainwashed into thinking that whites were their superiors. Fard claimed it was time for the reign of the whites to end.

The leader of the Nation taught that there was neither a heaven nor a hell after death. Both heaven and hell existed here on earth, and blacks had been living in hell for nearly 400 years. Whites, or, as Fard sometimes called them, 'blue-eyed devils,' had created the black man's hell."<sup>9</sup>

"In the Islamic tradition, the savior, who will one day redeem all men lost in an earthly hell, is called the Mahdi. This mighty being is both a person and a God. Fard told the Black Muslims that the Mahdi was none other than himself and that he was going to lead blacks to the state of grace from which they had fallen so long ago. As the Mahdi, he was the instrument of redemption. Under his leadership, the Nation of Islam would establish a utopian paradise, a separate territory within the United States that would be ruled only by blacks."<sup>10</sup>

Fard told his black followers that he come to rouse his "uncle," the Black Nation, to its full potential in a world temporarily controlled by "blue-eyed devils." His message to blacks living in the ghettos was that the North was merely a subtle, dishonest version of Dixie, where racists held power without the legal trappings of Southern segregation. White officials, from beat cops to social workers became targets of intense

race hatred from Fard's "Black Nation." One recruit, Robert Harris, planned to sacrifice two white welfare workers as "*infidels*." When the women learned of his plan they informed the police. Harris confirmed with the detectives that he would have killed the two "no-good Christians" only if he had been able to find them in time.<sup>11</sup>

### The Real Reason Why Master Fard Left Detroit

The Allah Temple of Islam (ATI) was involved in a major scandal that became national news only two years after Fard founded the ATI in Detroit. On a Sunday, November 20, 1932, a forty-four-year-old unskilled laborer named Robert Harris (whom Master Fard renamed Robert Karriem) ritually murdered his tenant James J. Smith (a former member of the Moorish Science Temple) in a bizarre human sacrifice. Harris (Karriem) was obviously insane. He declared himself the "King of Islam" during his trial. Harris (Karriem) had erected a makeshift altar, and in the presence of his wife, two children, and 12 other Temple members, he tied Smith down and stabbed him in the chest with an eight-inch, silver knife that his wife provided. The killer then caved in his victim's head with an automobile axle.<sup>12</sup>

Following Harris's (Karriem) arrest, Wallace D. Fard, and Ugan Ali, (an ATI teacher) and five other senior figures were taken into custody as well. The next day over five hundred ATI members marched on the police headquarters and demanded the release of their leaders.

Harris (Karriem) believed he was carrying out Allah Temple of Islam's teachings, and the police were suspicious of a "black voodoo cult." The *Detroit Free Press* acknowledged that Fard's version of Islam was involved and not Voodoo. The media had a sensational story and thus the "Allah Temple of Islam/Nation of Islam" itself came under the spotlight.

Police detectives found a "Bible of Islam" located near the bloody makeshift altar inside his home. The "Bible of Islam" was a booklet written by Fard Muhammad, entitled "*Secret Rituals of the Lost-Found Nation of Islam*." *Secret Rituals* advocated killing unbelievers. Detectives opened up *Secret Rituals* and found a handwritten note by Harris quoting Fard about "*stabbing the infidel through the heart*." Further investigation by police led to the discovery that "Lesson 1" of *The Secret Ritual* included statements such as, "*All Moslem [sic] will murder the devil because they know he is a snake and also if he be allowed to live, he would sting someone else*."<sup>13</sup>

Harris (Karriem) told the detectives that he intended to carry out more murders, which he called "sacrifices."<sup>14</sup> Karriem referred to Fard and Ugan-Ali as the "gods of Islam." He told the investigators, "*I had to kill somebody. I could not forsake my gods*."<sup>15</sup>

It was W.D. Fard's turn to be interviewed. He told detectives, "*I am the Supreme Ruler of the Universe*." His followers were dismayed that he told the police so much more than he told ATI adherents.<sup>16</sup> Now the detectives wondered if Fard was as mentally unstable as Harris (Karriem). They called in a psychiatrist, Dr. David Clark, who administered a series of psychological tests to Ugan-Ali and Fard for more than an hour. Dr. Clark recommended that both men, along with Karriem, be admitted to a state

hospital for further observation. A judge agreed and signed the order and Karriem, Fard, and Ali were placed in straitjackets, taken into psychiatric custody at Detroit's Receiving Hospital for observation, and put in padded cells.<sup>17</sup>

The psychiatrists determined that the sanity of Ugan-Ali was *"extremely doubtful... the slightest word or phrase used inadvertently seems to enrage him, for no apparent reason."* Master Fard Muhammad was described as *"suffering from delusions that he is a divinity."*<sup>18</sup> Apparently Ugan-Ali was sane enough to renounce the teachings of W.D. Fard so he could get out of the psychiatric unit. "Ugan-Ali, threatened with possible criminal charges stemming from the sacrificial slaying, told the commission and Judge Scallen that he now realized *'the danger of my teachings'* and promised to use his *'influence to disband the Allah Temple of Islam.'*<sup>19</sup> Ugan-Ali and his wife disappeared and Elijah Muhammad became Fard's chief aide whom he later gave the title of Supreme Minister. It was at that time that Fard changed Elijah's last name from Karriem to Muhammad (the change may have been related to sullyng of the surname Karriem by the insane murderer Robert Harris). Fard Muhammad supposedly said to Elijah, *"I will give you a better name than Karriem... You take Muhammad, My name."*<sup>20</sup> Elijah convinced most of his Detroit relatives to adopt the new surname. Sadly, Elijah's Baptist father had renounced Christianity and became an NOI member. Thus the former Reverend Willie Poole and his wife, Mariah, became Wali and Marie Muhammad.<sup>21</sup>

Harris (Karriem) was later convicted of murder and committed to an insane asylum. The authorities made a deal with Fard, letting him out of the psychopathic ward on that condition that he shut down the ATI and leave Detroit forever. Fard agreed to these terms, but he did not keep his end of the bargain. He confused the police in January 1933, by changing the ATI's name to the Nation of Islam and kept it going.<sup>22</sup> Fard's reasoning for the change of the name to protect temple leaders so they could not be arrested for violating the court order to ban the ATI.

### Several of Detroit's Black Ministers Condemned the NOI

During this scandal, the *Detroit Free Press* reported that *"Welfare workers too have suffered from the cult's fanatic zeal. Negro Welfare workers have for some time reported that they had been insulted as "devils" and in many cases threatened with bodily harm."*<sup>23</sup> And *"a number of Negro clergymen and representatives of other Negro religious societies have called upon us at the office, all demanding that some action be taken for the purpose of disbanding the 'Nation of Islam.'*"<sup>24</sup>

On November 28, 1932, the *Detroit Free Press* reported that Rev. J.D. Howell, pastor of the St. Stephen's African Methodist Episcopal Church, *was one of several prominent Negro clergymen in the City who devoted the greater part of their sermons to denunciations of the leaders of the sinister cult called "Islamism," which for at least four years has preyed upon the more gullible members of their people, and by its force of fanaticism, goaded several Negroes into delusions of divine power which toppled their sanity into homicidal tendencies.*<sup>25</sup> Reverend Howell also emphasized that *"The Negro race cannot, as such, be held responsible for the actions and teachings of fanatics. Their*

*'Arabian' leader is solely to blame. There must be quick and just punishment of those who come among us and, for personal gain, lead us astray. **The Islamic 'Bible' and the Nation of Islam must go**"* <sup>26</sup> (emphasis is mine). The *Detroit Free Press* went on to report that *"Police investigation of the cult's activities continued Sunday. Detectives and others assigned to the case said that they would continue their investigation until the cult is stamped out."*<sup>27</sup>

On December 7, 1932, Detroit detectives put Fard on a west-bound train for Chicago<sup>28</sup> and told him never to return. Master Fard moved to the newly-built Chicago Temple No. 2, and was arrested again in Chicago. Fard sneaked back to Detroit on several occasions to check on the progress of his Detroit temple. On one occasion, a police officer recognized the light-skinned man preaching on the street corners as W.D. Fard, the banished founder of the Black Muslims. Fard was arrested in May 1933 for disturbing the peace. He was fingerprinted and booked and once again told to leave Detroit.

In a confession to Detroit police, Fard admitted that his teachings and the Nation of Islam was "a racket." He told investigators that he created the NOI to bilk the black community out of money.<sup>29</sup> He agreed to leave Detroit forever and the police agreed to let him address the NOI one last time. Master Fard told his Detroit followers in a farewell speech, *"The white man will be destroyed this year."*<sup>30</sup> He assured his followers that an unidentified flying object sighted in Canada was really the Mother Plane, a vehicle that resembled the description of Ezekiel's wheel in the Holy Bible. The Mother Plane was designed and built in Japan by "our Asiatic brothers," Fard said, and when he gave the signal, the airship would release smaller ships inside its bay that would drop poison bombs on America. Only 144,000 people would survive, and all of those would be Muslims of color, the only "true" Muslims.<sup>31</sup> (In fact, Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam believe that Master Fard is still alive accompanied by Elijah Muhammad. They are orbiting the earth in the Mother Plane, an invisible spaceship. The NOI are waiting for his return and his divine wrath and judgment upon the United States.)

In June 1934, W. D. Fard mysteriously disappeared and left no explanation behind for his followers. The rumor was that he had returned to Mecca, but according to Karl Evanzz, Fard was actually living in Chicago using various aliases to avoid the attention of authorities.<sup>32</sup>

At the time of his disappearance, the Black Muslims were nearly 8,000 strong. Fard never named his successor, and just as 1,400 years earlier when the original Muhammad died without naming a successor; the Muslim community broke out in civil war, brother against brother, friend against friend.

The NOI was built upon the personality of Master Fard Muhammad, and similar to its predecessor, the Moorish Science Temple, their numbers began dropping when they lost their vigorous founder. Elijah Muhammad declared to the NOI that W.D. Fard named him as his heir. However, he was opposed by many NOI ministers, including Kallatt, his own flesh-and-blood brother. The biggest disagreement was Elijah Muhammad's

insistence that Master Fard was God. The two became so hostile towards each other that Kallatt moved out of the home that they shared. Kallatt even allied himself with two of Elijah's enemies, Abdul Muhammad (no relation to Elijah) and Satohata Takahashi (a Japanese radical working for Imperial Japan). Abdul Muhammad and Takahashi created the Society for the Development of Our Own (SDOO), a rival Islamic-black nationalistic organization intended to draw members away from the NOI. Takahashi was working for Japan, America's enemy, to sow discord and discontent in the United States amongst the minorities. He used his wealth to build the SDOO up to 5,000 members by early 1931, most of them African-Americans, Filipinos, and East Indians.

The internal quarreling went public. Rumors of plots to kill Elijah Muhammad began circulating throughout the NOI. Ministers who once defended Elijah Muhammad with their lives now discussed openly about assassinating him. Many former NOI members suspected that Elijah was behind Fard's disappearance. The more aggressive opponents of Elijah Muhammad tried to kill him.<sup>33</sup> Several attempts were made on Elijah's life. He surrounded himself by loyal soldiers of the Fruit of Islam.

Elijah felt helpless as he watched the NOI break up into several splinter groups. Several ministers returned to the Moorish Science Temple. Another minister, Osman Sharrieff, a highly respected minister in the Chicago Temple, created his own organization, the Moslem Brotherhood, and took several hundred members with him. Sharrieff, who joined the NOI in 1932, and was personally trained by Master Fard, insisted that Fard never claimed to be Allah incarnate. Neither he nor any other person he knew had ever heard Fard appoint Elijah as the new prophet and leader of the NOI. Sharrieff. He called Elijah Muhammad a hypocrite.<sup>34</sup>



Elijah Muhammad moved to Chicago to Temple No. 2, to establish the new NOI headquarters. He began reshaping the Nation of Islam in his own militant image. He assumed Fard's title of "Prophet," and added "Messenger of Allah" for good measure.<sup>35</sup> In time, Elijah Muhammad deified Master Fard by teaching that he was God, who came in flesh to save the black race. Fard went from *Allah's messenger* to *Allah*. Elijah Muhammad claimed to be Allah's mouthpiece and spoke for Fard and thus he increased his own ego aggrandizing importance to the apocalypse.

Elijah in his *Messenger of Allah* role preached, "*I am the Elijah of your (Holy) Bible and I am the Muhammad of your Holy Quran. Not the Muhammad that was here nearly 1,400 years ago. I am the One that the Holy Quran is referring to. The Muhammad of 1,400 years ago was a white man...A pilgrimage there will not help him become a great and righteous Muslim, but bowing down to that Last Messenger (Elijah Muhammad)...is the real Mecca to which they should make pilgrimage...*"<sup>36</sup>

Elijah Muhammad was anti-white, anti-government, and anti-Christian. He once preached, “*The Jesus who died 2,000 years ago will never return. We must follow the teachings of Master Wallace Fard Muhammad, who is our God (emphasis mine) and who born on February 26, 1877, in the holy city of Mecca...If you can accept Abraham and Moses and Jesus as prophets, why can’t you accept me? I am here to do as Moses did-to tell Pharaoh to let my people go. All prophets before me were persecuted and finally killed, but no one can lay a hand on me because I am protected by Allah. All the other prophets had seen a revelation and were only revealing what they saw, but none besides me was taught directly by God (emphasis mine).*”<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Lincoln, C. Eric. *The Black Muslims in America*. 1st ed., Beacon Press, Boston, 1961, p.108; and *Malcolm X*, p. 250.

<sup>2</sup>Pement, Eric, “Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam,” *Cornerstone*, vol. 26, issue 111, (1997), pp. 10-16, 20

<sup>3</sup>Lincoln, 1961, p.12

<sup>4</sup>Muhammad, Wallace Deen. *As the Light Shineth From the East*. Chicago: WDM Publishing Co, 1980, p. 19

<sup>5</sup>Goldman, Peter. *The Death and Life of Malcolm X*. New York: Harper & Row, Perennial Library, 1974, p. 42

<sup>6</sup>Cashill, Jack. “Sucker Punch: The Hard Left Hook that Dazed Ali and Killed King's Dream” [http://www.cashill.com/natl\\_general/sp1\\_10.htm](http://www.cashill.com/natl_general/sp1_10.htm) (retrieved 07-20-07)

<sup>7</sup>Magida, Arthur J. *Prophet of Rage: A Life of Louis Farrakhan and his Nation*. New York: Basic Books, 1996, pp. 54, 221

<sup>8</sup>Halasa, Malu. *Elijah Muhammad*, Chelsea House Publishers, New York Philadelphia, 1990, p. 50.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid, p. 51

<sup>10</sup>Ibid

<sup>11</sup>Newton, Michael. *Holy Homicide: An Encyclopedia of Those Who Go With Their God...And Kill!* Loompanics Unlimited, Port Townsend, Washington, 1998, p. 185

<sup>12</sup>“Head of Cult Admits Killing,” *Detroit Free Press*, November 21, 1932, p. 1

<sup>13</sup>Gardell, Mattias. *In the Name of Elijah Muhammad: Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1996, p. 56.

<sup>14</sup>Newton, p. 185

<sup>15</sup>“Voodoo Slayer Admits Plotting Death of Judges,” *Detroit Free Press*, November 22, 1932, AOI; “Leader of Cult Called Insane,” *Detroit News*, November 22, 1932, AO4

<sup>16</sup>Benyon, Erdmann D. “The Voodoo Cult among Negro Migrants in Detroit,” *American Journal of Sociology* 43 (July 1937-May 1938): 894-907.

<sup>17</sup>“New Human Sacrifice with a Boy as Victim is Averted by Inquiry,” *Detroit Free Press*, November 26, 1932, p.1

<sup>18</sup>Ibid

<sup>19</sup>Evanzz, Karl. *The Messenger: The Rise and Fall of Elijah Muhammad*, Pantheon Books, New York, 1999, p. 90

<sup>20</sup>Clegg, Claude Andrew, III. *An Original Man: The Life and Times of Elijah Muhammad*, St. Martin’s Press, New York, 1997, p. 33

<sup>21</sup>Ibid, p. 34

<sup>22</sup>Pipes, Daniel. *Militant Islam Reaches America*, W.W. Norton & Company, New York London, 2002, p.223

<sup>23</sup>*Detroit Free Press*, November 26, 1932, p.1

<sup>24</sup>Ibid

<sup>25</sup>“Pastors Decry Grow of Cult Practices Here.” *The Detroit Free Press*, November 28, 1932, p. 1

<sup>26</sup>Ibid

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<sup>27</sup> Ibid

<sup>28</sup> “Voodoo’s Reign Here Is Broken; Slayer Held Insane; Fard Quits City,” *Detroit Free Press*, December 7, 1932, A07

<sup>29</sup> W.D. Fard FBI File

<sup>30</sup> Evanzz, pp. 95-96

<sup>31</sup> Muhammad, Elijah, *The Supreme Wisdom: Solution to the So-Called Negroes’ Problem*, Vols. I and 2. Chicago: University of Islam, 1957, pp. 23-24

<sup>32</sup> Evanzz, p. 95

<sup>33</sup> Pipes, p. 223

<sup>34</sup> FBI HQ file on the SDOO, vol. 2

<sup>35</sup> Newton, p. 187

<sup>36</sup> Hakim, Nasir Makr, ed. *True History of Elijah Muhammad, Messenger of Allah*, Atlanta: Secretarius M.E.M.P.S Publications, 1997, pp. 223-28

<sup>37</sup> Saviour’s Day address (audiocassette); FBI HQ file on Elijah Muhammad