

Study Engineering

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NOTE: The following is a letter sent to me (Brother Muhammad Zahir aka Seventhfam) by the Last Messenger of Allah, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. The Messenger is responding to my letter to him requesting clarification on what type of duty he would prefer from me. My stated options were (a) Pushing Muhammad Speaks Newspaper full time, (b) working two full time jobs and donating one income to the Nation, (c) studying Engineering at a major University. I had previously done both (a) and (b) but I felt my qualifications and abilities could be used to take our Nation to another level. Neither my Minister or Captain agreed that I should study Engineering, in spite of the fact that the Messenger ran a continuous advertisement in the Muhammad Speaks Newspaper seeking Engineers of all types. Hence, I wrote to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad himself, seeking final resolution. The following is his divine response. All praise is due to Allah. Five years later(1973) I received my Bachelors of Science in Industrial Engineering (Mechanical Engineering), the first Muslim to ever graduate from high school and to later acquire a fully accredited four year Engineering degree from a major university; both while being a Registered Believer in good standing with the Nation of Islam.

**"EDUCATION IS WHAT THE SO-CALLED NEGRO NEEDS"..... Messenger
Elijah Muhammad**



**Anyone who is serious about studying
engineering, please contact me. I'd love to
help you as much as possible. Write to me
at:**

Brother Muhammad R. Zahir

PO Box 4841

Overland Park, Kansas

or Email me at:

Seventhfam@aol.com

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad

Messenger of Allah

4847 South Woodlawn Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60615

August 6, 1968

As-Salaam-Alaikum

In the Name of Almighty Allah, The Most Merciful Saviour, our Deliverer, who Came in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, to whom praises are due forever, Master of the day of Judgment. To Allah alone do I submit and seek refuge.

Dear Brother:

I was so happy reading your letter dated July 10, 1968 of your contributions to the cause of Islam. I pray Allah will reward you so that you will not have any want for material things of this world.

Regarding your education and striving towards an Engineers degree, **you have to get the knowledge from those that know.** If you want to work part of the time, and go to school part of the day, and you cannot arrange it differently, I say take it. If you are able to school yourself without trying to work at the same time on some job, I would look into that; because, **education is what the so-called Negro needs.**

At the proper time we will need to know all types of Engineering. We have to re-build for ourselves the type of Civilization that Allah demands us to accept. **In words to say--we have to rebuild a Nation. Engineering is the first trade that will be in demand.**

Thank you, may Allah bless you, and if there is anything the Nation can aid you in, feel not ashamed to ask any advice that you think is in us. Please do not hesitate in seeking the answer.

As-Salaam-Alaikum

Elijah Muhammad

Messenger of Allah

EM/vn/b2x

P.S.

Thank you for

the stamp.