

**A STAR OF GOD**  
*STUDENT MINISTER*  
**DR. AVA MUHAMMAD**





Photo: J. Karriem photography



Photos courtesy of Darius Muhammad

# Minister Ava Muhammad

## *An Incomparable Gift Of God*

**A Message Dedicated to the Resurrection of the Black Man and Woman of America and the World.**

Founded by the HONORABLE ELIJAH MUHAMMAD and Published by MINISTER LOUIS FARRAKHAN, National Representative of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam

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# A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR THE INCOMPARABLE GIFT OF MINISTER DR. AVA MUHAMMAD

by *The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan*

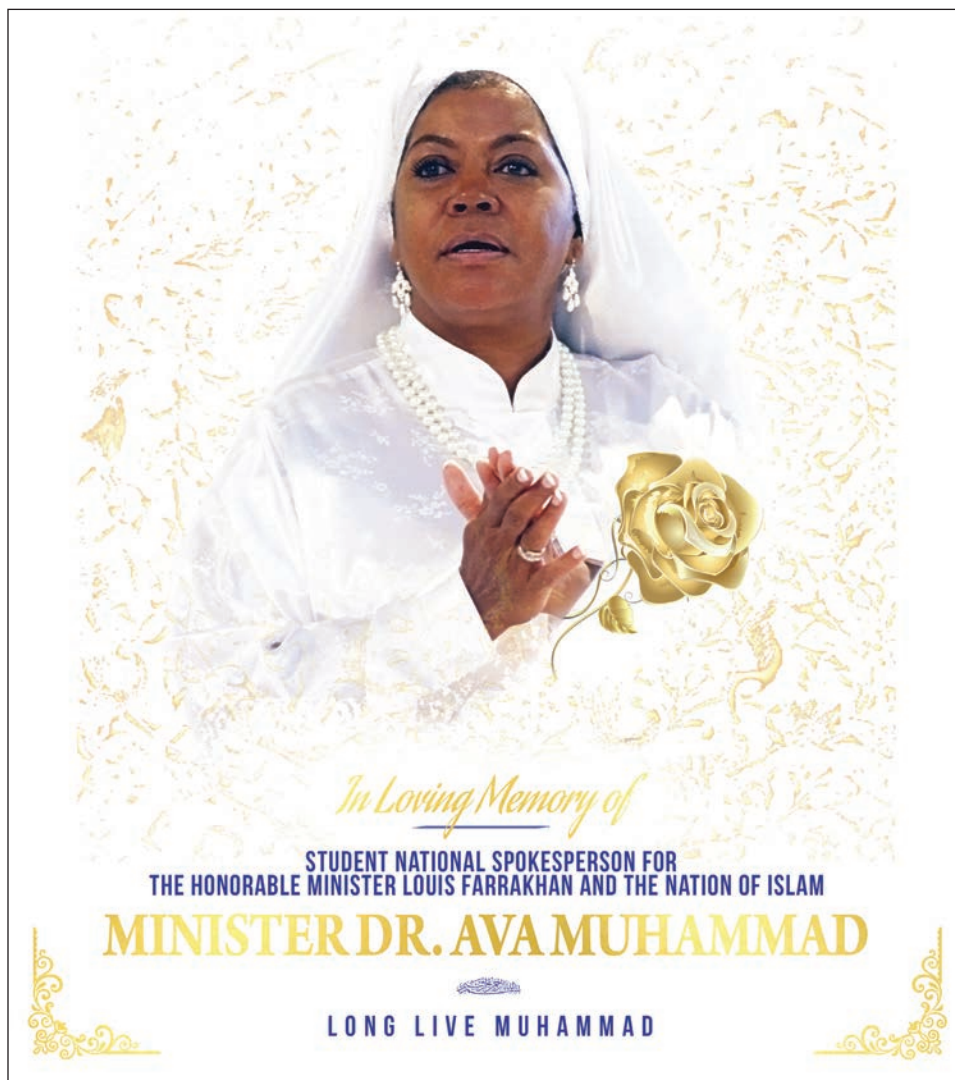
[Editor's note: Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad, the Official National Spokesperson for the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam as well as a member of the Nation of Islam's Executive Council, departed this life on Thursday, August 25, 2022. We extend our love, support and prayers to her husband Brother Darius Muhammad, daughters Sister Sasha and Sister Cherelle, grandchildren Amir and Amirah and her entire family. Her janazah (funeral) service, was held September 3, 2022 at Mosque Maryam, the Chicago-based National Headquarters of the Nation of Islam. The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan shared beautiful, poignant words at the janazah and The Final Call presents excerpts of his heartfelt message. To view the message in its entirety, visit: [media.noi.org](http://media.noi.org). We thank Allah (God) for the life and service of Sister Ava Muhammad, a mighty servant in the mission of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam.]

## IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL.

To the family of Sister Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad, to her sisters whom she loved so much; to her daughters, Sasha and Cherelle, to her nieces and nephews, and those who her life has touched—and that is all of us in this room, and all those around the world who have come to know the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and Minister Louis Farrakhan and The Nation of Islam, because she was a faithful teacher and guide for our people, I don't want you to take this as a time of sadness. It's difficult to be joyful when you have lost a great one in your family, but in the church, they say: "The Lord giveth and The Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of The Lord."

**There would be no Sister Ava if there were no God to give her to us. He is her and our Sovereign Lord.** She came through her mother and father, but did not come from them. She came from God. He gave her to us. But when God gives you life, He also gives us time. **And how we use our time that only God could give, and the life that only God could give, is the measure of your reward or your favor from God.**

When I was a young student



in college in North Carolina, one day during the Thanksgiving vacation I went with one of my college friends to Reidsville, North Carolina, and we went to

Baptist preacher, and that man preached that day! I only had a quarter in my pocket, but when he asked for charity, he got every bit of what I had. That was 1953, about 60 some-odd years ago, and I remember that man's sermon.

I thought I would share some of the sermon with you as it relates to my sister.

**What are we doing with the time God has given us?**

**Life is like a "vapor": It appears for a short time, and then it's gone.** The Qur'an tells us that God is not prodigal; He doesn't waste things. The economy of America and the world is in trouble, they don't know how to get rid of waste... Well, God is coming to take care of that. In fact, He is here to take care of a lot of wasted stuff that needs to be buried.

That preacher asked the question: **"What are you doing with God's Time?"** That's a good question, because most of us don't know how to properly use God's Time! That preacher was preaching that day; and when he finished, I was thinking about how I was going to use God's Time. Today, [I want us do the same thing] in our celebration of life for **the incom-**

church. I grew up in the Episcopal church, and the Episcopal church is not full of joy and exuberant preaching. And this was my first time to be exposed to a



Photo: Jabril Muhammad

Mosque Maryam in Chicago was filled to capacity on Saturday, September 3, 2022 for the janazah (funeral) service for Student Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad, National Spokesperson for the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam. Minister Farrakhan officiated the service.

**parable gift** that God gave to us in the person of Sister Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad.

I want you to think! Because as I am talking about our sister, I am talking about *her*, but I am using her to talk to *us*, because we are wasting a lot of time! Time, that we are going to have to answer to The God Who gave us life and gave us time when He asks **“What did you do with the time that I gave you?!”**

You can say anything you want to, but you cannot excuse your laziness, your cowardice, your loving to watch others work—and we applaud—but when it’s our time to put in the labor and overcome the difficulty factors in our life, [we shrink away from the difficulty]. We say we praise God for Ava, because she worked, and her work touched us. But you and I are still *the living*: You’ve got time! Time ended for her.

I like that you called her a “star,” but you should have said one thing more: **“She was a star of God.”**

**Only God makes stars.** The devil has a few phonies out here—phony preachers, phony teachers, phony lawyers, phony doctors; human beings that put

on a mask when they come out of their house (“Who am I going to be *today*?”). When I was in showbusiness, there was a comedian who said, “You know, get drunk and be somebody!” Because you can’t be “somebody” if you ain’t drunk; because when you’re drunk, you can imagine all kind of madness.” But you are *here*, and God did not forsake one of you. **He gave you a gift that says how much He loves you.**

**Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad:  
A real lover of God, serious  
student of His creation**

You don’t think that God cares about the little life that just came, or the life that just left (“*He’s not that interested*”). Don’t lie on God. There is not a life that He gives that He is not concerned with the way that life lives. If He knows the sparrow that flies and falls, how much more are you than the bird that fell from the tree, or the doe that the lion ate? God loves His creatures.

**My sister learned to love God by studying the majesty of His creation.** I don’t praise God for “things,” I praise God for the gift of the wisdom in my life of sacrifice. You can’t be great and not

be willing to sacrifice to achieve greatness! You cannot achieve greatness by being lazy and envious of others who show forth their gift, and you have one, but your envy of others deprives you of acting on your own gift! I want you to listen to your brother today!

**Sister Ava was a lover of God.** You just heard her obituary that she was suffering from cancer, as was I, as are some of you. She didn’t just go to the doctor, she heard something that brought her back to God. She overcame cancer; and when she overcame cancer, she knew that she had a “step up” on overcoming any impediment to her progress. You can’t come back to God with excuses. *“Well, the White man...”*—SHUT UP! The White man ain’t God! He is playing “God.” He looks good as *an actor*, but God is present now and He is showing up the phony! And there is no Oscar for the White man or Satan—or you—for playing God, but showing the world you are nothing but an enemy of God and an enemy of yourself.

Since we have been reared by Satan, what did being reared by Satan produce? *“What do you*

*mean I have been ‘reared by Satan’? What do you know?”* No, I’m talking about what the scripture says, “Born in sin and shaped in iniquity.”

Is that who you are? Is that who we are? Born from a rebellious one who has reared us as rebellious people, especially rebels of God; so the enemy, now, can make you love what God hates, and make you try to be what God calls an abomination.

**Sister Ava loved Allah, and she knew that in order for her to be successful, she had to live a life that would grant her favor from God.** God loves you, and me, but He is not pleased with the way we are using the time that only He could give. So, clocking in for the Caucasian master on your job, he is watching, too, how you use your time.

**But what about God’s Time? How are we using the life that only God can give?** You have to make up your mind *today*, to use your gift properly. But first, you can’t use your gift until you discover it. Some of us think *“God don’t like me. I’m considered ugly.”* No, you’re not ugly.

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# Gift

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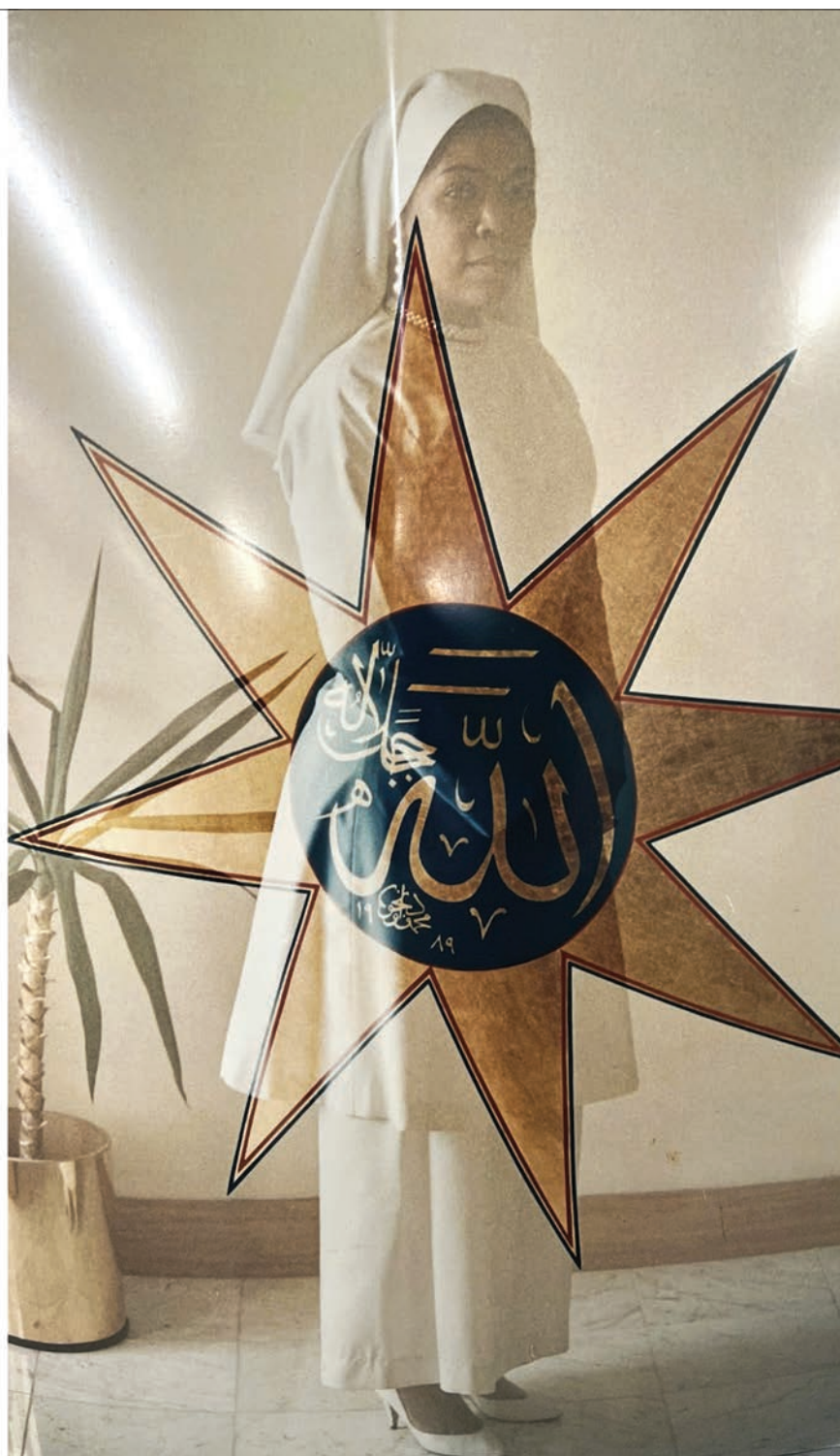
The thing that makes us ugly is when we rebel against God.

I used to say in my radio broadcast: “My beautiful Black brothers and sisters!” And one day I was with my Teacher, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad; he said: “Brother, stop using the term ‘beautiful,’ because nothing that rebels against God is beautiful.” You say, “Well, I’m beautiful! Look in the mirror!” Yeah, do that. “Mirror, mirror, on the wall...”—check out *this fool*—“and tell me some lies (How pretty I am!)” You spend hours in the mirror fixing your mouth, fixing your hair, fixing your eyes, fixing other things, that you think make you look “beautiful” in the eyes of *stupid men*.

Now, just listen, [because how I am teaching you, Sister Ava did the same!] The Sister Ava that I know! The Sister Ava that I met! **The Sister Ava that was a hand to me in the most difficult job ever given to any man who ever lived, and that job is to raise a dead nation up and give you life!**

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**All life has a cycle to it.** Every living thing has to come to birth; every living thing has to observe nature, be fed by nature, to be itself. That’s why God loves His creation. You notice in the Bible, in the Book of Genesis, when it talks about how God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was without form and void, and darkness



was upon the face of the deep, and God said “Let there be light,” and there was light, and He looked at it and said “Ah, this is good.”? What made it good? Because it obeyed The Nature of its creation.

Do you know your nature? That’s what Sister Ava discovered! *She’s a marvelous woman.* She loved women—but she wasn’t a lesbian. She

loved women, because she knew what a woman really is, and she wanted to help women be what God created them to be!

I live in a beautiful Palace made by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, but you find me more, now, at a Farm, in the country, observing God in the beauty of His creatures. I see the creatures come to life; I see them

reproduce after themselves; I see them guarding against the enemy of that life; and finally, I see the cycle ends with death.

But between life and death, there is a drive in the male to mate with the female of that species. Well, that drive is in you! But it is driving you to death and destruction, the way you’re misusing your nature.

“What do you mean, Minister?! I didn’t come here to hear nothing like that!” You’re coming to hear what Sister Ava heard that made her the woman that you admire! You don’t have no teacher like Sister Ava, or her Teachers (the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan).

## Heaven lies at the foot of Mother

**Sister Ava married a man that she could honor and respect as a man... She married a man.** He is not perfect (none are!); we do the best we can (and some of us are not doing that!). But I want to say something to you, *in her name*, this evening...

Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said: **“Heaven lies at the feet of mother.”** I want you to think with me: “Heaven lies at the feet of *mother*.” Why is that? Wherever you see “heaven,” **God has to be present**, because without God there is no “heaven.” So if *heaven* lies at the foot of *mother*: How do you look at your mother? How do you respond to your mother?

I heard her beautiful daughter Cherelle calling on mom. Mom was gone; Cherelle was in so much pain (“*I want my mama!*”). I said, “Sweetheart, it’s wonderful that you want mom. God gave her, God took her, but she brought you to The One Who gave you life and will shepherd you like mother, better than mother, to the end of your days.”

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# Gift

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When The Prophet said “Heaven lies at *the foot of mother*,” I want you to think about yourself, as a mother (and even if you’re not one, soon you will be one): God loved you *so much*, He created Woman. **The Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught us that God found in Himself a Woman, and He brought Her out of Himself.** So The Qur’an says: “*He created you from a single being or essence, and He created its mate of the same kind.*”

From this day forward, when you look at a woman, stop looking at “boobs and butt.” And women, stop showing “boobs and butt” that get a jackass interested in what you’re showing rather than Who you really are!

(And if that’s a little “raw,” that’s the way I taught Sister Ava! Sometimes truth isn’t pretty, but it’s wonderful to know it.)

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Now look, babies don’t know how to call on Allah, call on Jesus, call on Yahweh, call on Jehovah. *No*. Who is “God” to the baby? It is Mother. When you are a *Mother*, you are standing in the place of *God* as The Nourisher, The Nurturer, The Feeder, The Protector, The Saviour of your babies! When George Floyd was being beaten to death on the street: as a grown man, he remembered *mama*, and he called for *mama*. It wasn’t that he was a baby, but he always knew that when he cried, *mama* answered! And that devil that had his knee on his neck wasn’t getting up from it, had no mercy in him, he wanted to kill that Black man; so as he was dying, he called on *mama*...

“Mother” is the true friend of every baby. Even when she is not fully herself, she will try to be what nature tells her to do and be. ... When that baby cries, and you put that baby on

your breast, that’s comfort coming to the baby through you. But God gave you breasts, and God allowed milk to come in those breasts—and some of you love your body so much, you’ll kill it (the baby); or you don’t put the baby on your breast anymore, because you’ve got this damnable “fix it” thing that White folks made! There is *nothing in the world* more healthy than even a sick woman’s breast.

Why am I saying this? That breast is feeding the baby not only milk, but it’s feeding from your mind and your thoughts, and that’s why the scripture says “a foolish child is the heaviness of its mother; a wise child maketh a glad father.”

Sisters, you have been destroyed. There will be no “Kingdom on this Earth” until women are raised to be who God created them to be. “Heaven lies at the foot of mother,” because when you say “mama,” you’re actually asking for God. (“Help me, ma!”/“Mama, I’m in trouble!”) and whatnot. See, you’re calling “mama,” but you’re really calling God. **And if you, as a woman, are properly prepared, then you will be like Sister Ava, and she (mother) will feed you wisdom.**

**An arduous labor that only the purest of love could see her through until the end**

Not only does heaven lie at the foot of mother, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad taught me that the only heaven for a man is found in a woman. I’m going to say it again! The only “heaven” you’re gonna get in this life, you will find it *if you*

*know how* to bring heaven from a **woman**... Because you certainly have found hell all right, from the same woman that God has made to bring you heaven.

See, when you’re operating with a fool, you can’t give him the best that God put in you, so you live your life empty. Empty!! Because we, as men, in order for us to bring out of her the heaven that God put in her, we have to be one with God.



I call this mosque

“Maryam,” the only one in the world; I named it after the mother of Jesus. Do you know why?

Mary is the only woman that God gives a whole chapter in The Qur’an to her, and He is talking about her throughout The Book.

**If there is a god coming from The Womb of a Woman, it’s coming from a Woman that had contact with God.** ... And if you follow the Teachings of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad, you will grow up to be like Jesus. **I want you to pay attention to my words, because that is Who you are looking at, a man born and made a “Jesus” for you!**

Sister Ava suffered to be a “Minister Dr.” You know why? The Saviour called us “laborers,” because when you work to raise up a nation of people, you are in labor. And there is no labor without pain, there is no labor without discomfort. So preaching is not for phony people.

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I want to talk about the love of labor. The Bible says don’t shrink from the labor of spreading the Gospel; don’t complain when the people you’re laboring to raise turn on you, like some of the children turn on their parents when the parents are trying to

make you better than what you are inclined to be. It’s a labor of love.

But God put an end to Sister Ava’s labor. A woman so valued, *so needed*: “Why, God, did You put a ‘period’ to her life so soon, so unexpected?”

**Why is death called, in The Qur’an, the “evil accident of time”?** We all know if you’re born, one day we will return to God. Death will touch us. Do you know that? Do you believe that? Your time is coming, too. My time is coming. Sister Ava’s time had come.

The Holy Qur’an says “Think not of those who die in the way of God/slain in the way of God as dead, they are alive but you perceive not.” Well, is something wrong with your perception when you’re looking at somebody “dead,” that they’re not responding like they used to respond? What are you looking at? **Brother Ishmael said you are looking at “the irrevocable will of God.”** We can’t change this! We can’t turn it back! We can’t do nothing with this but to accept it as The Will of God, and say “My time is soon coming.”

Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad used her life and her time beautifully, but death came, like an enemy. “Death” doesn’t make you happy when it comes, especially when it comes to somebody *like Sister Ava*. You didn’t expect it; it was like that punch that was thrown that you didn’t see coming, and it knocked you for a loop. And what happens to most of us, when God does His Work, we think “Why did He do that? I don’t like that!,” and you begin to lose faith in God and His Wisdom. He put a period to her life at the time that He wanted to put a period there.

So, think about what you’re doing with God’s time and make up your mind to stop the foolishness that comes from envy and jealousy and self-hate, and stand up for God and His Christ like Sister Ava always did.

# A Fearless Defender, Scholar, Believer



by **Brian E. Muhammad**

Staff Writer  
@globalpeeks

The Nation of Islam and the world of freedom loving people continue to honor the life and legacy of Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad, National Spokesperson of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan and one of the strongest and most powerful voices for Islam, Black people and humanity.

Although Sister Ava's passing was major and painful, reflections on her many contributions to Black excellence continue to be shared.

Nation of Islam Student Supreme Captain Mustapha Farrakhan, son of Min. Farrakhan, remembered Sister Ava as someone who gave it all and used her God-given talents to advance the cause of Islam and Black progress.

"I want to thank Almighty God Allah for Sister Ava and her mother who produced her, because this was a very highly skilled and trained

sister in the art of law, and I see her as a watchman on the wall for our people for freedom, justice and equality," said Bro. Mustapha.

He said her strength as a strong defender of truth and the plight of Black people came from her profound love. She used the skills she acquired as a former prosecuting attorney in Queens, New York. She brought the same proficiency against our open enemy, said Bro. Mustapha.

"When you look at her stellar defense of the

Minister, she's fearless," he said. "People think that that stems out of other attributes but really it comes out of love" he added.

He likened the depth of Sister Ava's love to a mother who would run into a burning building to get her child, not taking account of what the fire would do to her. "Perfect love casts out fear," said Bro. Mustapha Farrakhan. "She loved Allah, His Christ and my father ... she is

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Mosque Maryam was filled to capacity on Sept. 3 for the janazah service honoring the life of Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad, National Spokesperson of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam.

## Nation of Islam honors, celebrates a life well-lived

by **Eric Ture Muhammad**

Contributing Writer

**MOSQUE MARYAM**— "Sister Ava is a star of God. ... Her light was extinguished in death. But down through the ages, people are going to read what she wrote; listen to the words that she spoke and she'll be making people see the value of what her teacher taught her—when all of us are turned to bones," said the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan speaking during his Sept. 3 remarks on the life and legacy of Sister Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad, his Official National Spokesperson.

The doors to Mosque Maryam, at Nation of Islam headquarters opened an hour before the scheduled Muslim Prayer Service, known as janazah, and was officiated by her teacher, Minister Farrakhan. All in attendance stood in respect, as the family members of Sister Ava filed in to take their respective seats. Once seated an opening prayer, remarks and the obitu-

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# Fearless

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fearless because of the deep love that she has,” he added. “She used all of her God-given talent to fight on behalf of the God that came to save us.”

Student Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad departed this life on August 25, 2022. A wife, mother, grandmother, and servant of God, she was 71 years old.

Minister Ava was a staunch defender of Minister Farrakhan and the Teachings of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad. As an attorney by profession, after joining the Nation of Islam, she was instrumental in representing the Nation and giving valued advice and guidance on legal issues to Minister Farrakhan and NOI officials.



## A life of service and progress

Minister Ava Muhammad was the first Muslim woman in modern history to occupy a position of authority over a mosque anywhere in the world. She served as the Nation of Islam's Southern Regional Minister, as well as the Minister of Muhammad Mosque No. 15 in Atlanta from 1998 until 2000. Later, she was appointed as Minister Farrakhan's National Spokesperson.

Minister Farrakhan's appointing Minister Ava over a mosque was “inspired” and demonstrated the answer to a fundamental problem plaguing the world.

In her illuminating book, “A New Unit of Measurement,” Minister Ava once wrote: “The time has come when women must be represented through leadership roles in every aspect of life, especially religion,” she said. “I am often asked about the role of the woman in Islam. What about the role of the woman in Christianity, in Judaism, in government, business, finance, education, politics?”

She further wrote, “It is the absence of the female from the preaching and teaching of God's Word and from shepherding the flock that has crippled this planet. Until the female is free to exercise her creative ability, the human family will remain in this condition.”

Of Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad's many accomplishments in service to the Nation of Islam was her invaluable input in the development, compilation, and presentation of the “Muhammad Mosque Provisional Constitution” of the Nation of Islam that was ratified

in March, 1986. She was also a proponent of separation as “a must,” for Blacks as taught by the Hon. Elijah Muhammad. She brought thinkers together in townhall meetings and established the “Project Separation” initiative.

Perhaps her most celebrated contribution was transcribing Minister Farrakhan's words, which became study guides and a cornerstone for the spiritual development of the Nation of Islam and the wider public titled, “Self-Improvement: The Basis For Community Development.”

Her body of work also includes authoring several self-empowerment books designed to help people to access and develop the divine within under titles like: “Real Love,” “A New Way of Life,” “Naturally Beautiful,” “The Force and Power of Being” and “Weapons of Self-Destruction.”

Along with her books, Minister Ava conducted the “Master Class” course infusing her years of study and application of the restorative teachings of the Hon. Elijah Muhammad and Minister Farrakhan.

She was a national speaker in high demand for conferences and represented the message of Minister Farrakhan in print and broadcast media. Minister Ava graced the microphones of many talk shows, including her own popular program, “Ask Dr. Ava” on her Elevated Places Network on Blogtalk Radio. She also hosted a talk show, “Elevated Places,” that ran several years on Black-owned WVON 1690AM, in Chicago.

She was featured several times in Essence Magazine, providing guidance and counsel on such topics as “The Love You Deserve” and the September 11, 2001, attack on the United States. In 2000 she was recognized by Essence as one of the 30 most influential Black women in America in its 30th Anniversary edition.

Beyond America, accompanied by her husband, Darius Muhammad, she traveled the globe to Africa, and captivated and inspired audiences in London, Paris, and the Caribbean. In 1991, she and Brother Darius made their pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

## A star of piercing brightness

Minister Ava personified the oft-recited prayer of Muslims: “My prayer, my sacrifice, my life, and my death are all for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.” This year, 2022 marked over 40 years of her faithful service in the Nation of Islam and aiding Minister Farrakhan.

“She was my sister, a friend and a real colleague in this work who inspired me and countless others to become sharper, better, stronger in our defense,” said Student Minister Jamil Mu-

hammad.

“Her Islam is not halted by the period at the end of her physical life,” he said. “Her Islam continues because she connected to something that was eternal and connected in such a way as to advance the cause with great honor,” he added. “Her contribution is enduring, and it will last.”

Condolences poured in from various people who remembered her as a person and a stalwart for truth and justice.

“If righteousness was personified it would be Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad. She was as beautiful, as she was powerful, as she was committed to the community,” said Nayaba Arinde, editor of The New York Amsterdam News, in an emailed statement. Ms. Arinde described Minister Ava as possessing the “power of empathetic communication” with the ability to “analyze and assess our condition” then articulate the solution with enough “convincing energy” to encourage action.

“She was a soldier,” said Pam Africa, of the Philadelphia-based MOVE Organization.

“She was warm, caring, loving, and dealing with the issue of myself, my family and Mumia (Abu Jamal). She was always right there ... a phone call away,” said Ms. Africa.

She said Minister Ava's attentiveness will be missed, but the example she set “is in many sisters,” and “her job on this level was a job well done.”

Similar sentiments were expressed in condolences to Minister Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam by Viola Plummer on behalf of the New York-based December 12th Movement: “Her love, dedication and tireless work for our people is a shining example,” she said.

Renowned poet and writer Nikki Giovanni, a first cousin of Minister Ava expressed condolences. Susan Taylor, founder, and CEO of the “National Cares Mentoring Movement” and editor emerita of Essence Magazine also expressed her “heartfelt condolences” on the passing of Sister Ava.

“On behalf of my daughter, Amina and the Women in Support of the Million Man March, we mourn the passing of Sister Ava Muhammad,” said Fredricka Bey of WISOMMM. “She was just pure woman ... brilliant,” she said.

“It's critically important that we immortalize her ideas and make sure that they live another 1,000 years after her death,” said Dr. Boyce Watkins, author, and financial scholar.

There is no reason Dr. Ava Muhammad should not be in all the history books for our children everywhere, but we must be the ones to cre-

ate those books and materials that would assure her legacy survives the way that it should, said Mr. Watkins.

“We join the many around the country mourning the loss of our great sister,” said civil rights attorney Ben Crump. “Her work and tenacious spirit for freedom, justice and equality will forever be within us.”

## Advocate for women and the oppressed

As spokesperson for Minister Farrakhan, she gained the respect and endearment of people as one of his most proficient defenders and profound representatives. From human rights to advocating for Black women, Sister Ava is lauded as a giant in the liberation of the soul of Black and oppressed people.

“Sister Ava is revered, admired and has been an inspiration for women and men all over the world,” noted East Coast Student Regional MGT and GCC Captain Johnna Muhammad in an email statement. The MGT and GCC (Muslim Girls Training and General Civilization Class) are the women and girls of the Nation of Islam.

“She was on the front line for Black and oppressed people, and fearless in her defense of women's rights,” said Johnna Muhammad. “Sister Ava represented every woman as a wife, a mother, gifted spiritual teacher, author, editor, radio personality, attorney, and a sister friend,” said Johnna Muhammad, who admired Minis-

ter Ava since a young girl in the early rebuilding years of the Nation of Islam in the 1980s

“In my judgment she was the epitome of what is popularly referred to as strong Black womanhood,” journalist Doshon Farad told The Final Call.

Black women, regardless of their religious background have shared via social media how Minister Ava impacted them. Others bore witness to the potency of Minister Ava's mind and sharp intellect, yet her quality of humility.

“She was such a charming, gracious spirit as accomplished as she was,” said Bob Law, veteran broadcaster, and radio

personality. “She made you feel that she appreciated you, gave you a sense of value,” he said.

An important quality about her teaching was how insightful she was and her level of discernment, which was of immense value to anyone who would be, in a real sense, students of hers, explained Mr. Law.

“It made all the difference in the world in fact, that she was a woman,” said Mark Thompson, host of “Make it Plain” radio show



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Sister Ava loved providing encouragement and sharing divine guidance.



Speaking before the world at "Justice or Else," the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March in Washington, D.C. in 2015.



Sister Ava loved and cherished her family and had two sisters, Carole and Lori.



Sister Ava was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio.

# Fearless

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and podcast. "Kwame Nkrumah once said, we can judge the revolutionary awareness of any nation by the political maturity of that nation's women, not by the political maturity of that nation's men. And that is because women are the first life givers, the first teachers," he added. Sister Ava set such an example for our struggle.

## The early years and finding purpose

Born Ava Atkinson on November 9, in Columbus, Ohio, she grew up in 1950s and '60s in America at a time of segregation, when Black economics was alive and Black culture and community thrived. Her parents, William and Gladys Atkinson, both educators, assured that Ava and her sisters, Carole and Lori, were conscious of the emerging civil rights struggle in the country. They instilled a love of history and literature in their daughters. She went to East High School—a premier institution—where she graduated with honors. People remembered young Ava as a highly gifted and popular student who stood out among her classmates.

"Sister Ava stood out, like a neon sign because, first of all, you never seen her without books ... a stack of books," recalled Callie Muhammad, who attended East High School at the same time.

In high school Sister Ava was immensely popular and grew up in an upper-middle class neighborhood in a close-knit family. Her parents were prominent community people in Black Columbus.

When asked if she observed signs in Minister Ava's early life of who she would become, Callie Muhammad said: "She was so smart, that you knew that she was going to be great," she reflected.

Minister Ava's star continued rising, graduating early with honors from Central State University, earning a degree in history in 1972. She went on to graduate from Georgetown University Law School in 1975 and was admitted to the New York Bar and eventually became an assistant district attorney in Queens. By 1980, Minister Ava joined forces with other young Black attorneys and started a successful criminal defense practice.

## Finding Allah (God) and her purpose

Trial entered her life that would become her "triumph over tragedy" testament that propelled Minister Ava on a course to her ultimate destiny. Both she and her mother were diagnosed with breast cancer at the same time. They both underwent chemotherapy for nearly two years. Having lost her father to lung cancer, Sister Ava found herself searching for spiritual answers to these life circumstances. Her longtime friend, and law partner, Barbara Muhammad remembered how she managed, overcame, and was subsequently cured of the cancer. Witnessing Minister Ava's experience inspired her own triumphant battle with breast cancer years later.

"She's like a blood family member," said Sister Barbara Muhammad. "When she had breast cancer, she came to live with me," she said.

"I told her, you were my example. Allah (God) put you to live with us, so I can see how to handle breast cancer when I got it," Sister Barbara recalled. Sister Ava was "a perfect example" and did not let cancer stop her from doing the things she had to do.

After attending a lecture by Minister Farrakhan called "Truth Crushed to the Earth Must Rise Again," in late 1981, Sister Ava and her law partners Barbara Emmanuel and Larry Pershay joined the Nation of Islam together at Muhammad Mosque No. 7 in New York.

"That was it," said Sister Ava, recounting the experience on a radio show. "I knew I have found the answer, because he (Minister Farrakhan) said to me, among the several thousand people that

he was talking to ... Allah empowers you to heal yourself," she said. The encounter changed her perspective on God, healing, wellness and diet, which she attributed to her victory over cancer.

## New York City to Chicago

"The mention of her name brings a smile to my face and it brings absolute peace to my heart knowing of the work she has done to help my brother, our brother, our friend, the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan," said Brother Abdul Karriem Muhammad, East Coast Regional Minister Emeritus of the Nation of Islam.

Brother Abdul Karriem Muhammad—in Nation of Islam vernacular—"fished" Sister Ava into the Nation of Islam and she credited him with nurturing her. He spoke about the day they met.

"We first encountered one another as I had walked from the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building in New York City, with Brother Haqq Muhammad," he said. "I saw this woman with a legal pad in her hand. I asked her, 'pardon me ma'am, are you a lawyer?' She said, 'yes, I am,'" he recalled.

They told her they were followers of the Nation of Islam under Minister Farrakhan, and that they needed a lawyer for the State Office Building, which was trying to put the Muslims out. "We had outgrown the space and they wanted us to move," he said.

Brother Abdul Karriem Muhammad said that Sister Ava, Sister Barbara and Brother Larry were the legal team. "Let's just say, we remained at the State Office Building. All three eventually joined the Nation of Islam."



Photo via Instagram



Photo: Final X

Top photo: Sister Ava, her husband Darius and their family with Min. Farrakhan and Mother Khadijah. Bottom photo: Signing one of her many popular books during a Nation of Islam Saviours' Day Convention.

Seeing her many skills Brother Abdul Karriem Muhammad stated, "I put her to work immediately, and she was a great help in this mission."

Minister Ava's example in New York left impressions and life changing impacts on people.

Sister Sharima Johnson met Minister Ava as a 15 year old in 1981 at Mosque No. 7. For her, Minister Ava was the example of Muslim womanhood she needed as a teenager. "I saw myself in Minister Ava because she was still feminine. She's beautiful. But she doesn't take anybody's mess," said Sister Sharima, who also entered the ministry class as a teen, at a time when it was uncommon for sisters.

Sister Ava was well studied, a quality Sister Sharima Johnson admired. "I admired that because I don't believe that we should be believers forever. We should become knowers and she was an embodiment of becoming a knower," she added.

"Although she knew a lot, she was always studying. Whether it was the Qur'an ... Bible or chemistry books for fun ... just very studious."

In 1983, Minister Farrakhan relocated Sister Ava to be at the Nation of Islam headquarters in Chicago.

"Minister Farrakhan had confidence in her analytical mind to deal with problems, not only problems we faced internally in the Nation but in the community," said Abdul Akbar Muhammad, International Representative of the Nation of Islam.

When she came to Chicago, the laboring staff were impressed by her dedication and whatever Minister Farrakhan talked about, she would pick up on it, write it down and analyze it, he explained. The Minister brought Sister Ava to Chicago in his efforts to harness the best minds and bring to headquarters the kind of help he needed to rebuild the Nation of Islam.

Akbar Muhammad also gave credit to Sister Ava's husband, Brother Darius Muhammad for sacrificing and being her protection, which allowed the family to be together despite tremendous external demands and busy public schedule. Sister Ava and Brother Darius were married 33 years and have two daughters, Sasha, and Cherelle, and two grandchildren, Amir, and Amirah.

2

“And speak not of those who are slain in Allah’s way as dead.  
Nay, (they are) alive, but you perceive not.”

—Holy Qur’an 2:154

“The Nation of Islam has created a task force on the coronavirus. We will rely on our researchers and scientists in cellular biology, molecular biology, microbiology and other fields relevant to vaccine development. The only way to know what is in a vaccine is to look at it under a microscope. Anything less leaves us relying on hearsay.”

“This bill [D.C. legislation permitting children as young as 11 to be vaccinated without parental consent] is pure totalitarianism. This is an extreme and complete means of exercising the highest degree of control over human life. Those who sponsored it, those who voted in favor of it, are open enemies of the people of this country, especially the Black people of Washington, D.C....Parental rights are no different now than when the plantation owners could snatch our babies out of our arms and sell them at will. There should be a massive counterattack to such a horrifying, criminal action. This is what the **Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan** referred to as a ‘declaration of war on all of us.’”

“They use monopolization of perception through a 24-hour news cycle. They stoked fear and ignorance, and most of all, they censored any dissenting opinion....We cannot examine and analyze the COVID-19 unapproved experimental vaccine without a knowledge of the climate in which it was produced....**Minister Farrakhan** called it death in July, and in December, under the direction and control of the United States government, it in fact began killing people.”

“The good news is that millions of people have thus far resisted the aggressive efforts by the U.S. government and media giants to push these dangerous, experimental, so-called vaccines. To those who resist, we offer continuing support with testimony from [high-ranking experts] bearing witness to what **Minister Farrakhan** gave us directly from Allah (God) on July 4, 2020.”

Our Sister Minister Ava Muhammad edited the Depopulation Section of the Final Call Newspaper. Early on in the “corona virus crisis” she perceived in the way it was unfolding that it had less to do with health and more to do with the long-planned depopulation agenda that The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan has been warning us about for many years. Sister Ava began speaking out and in May of 2021 initiated the Special Section in the Final Call to warn our people so that they would not fall victim to Satan’s “diabolical scheme.” Here are some of her words of wisdom and warning:



“And the owners of the **Elevated Places** call out to men whom they recognize by their marks, saying: Of no avail were to you your amassings and your arrogance. Are these they about whom you swore that Allah would not bestow mercy on them? Enter the Garden; you have no fear, nor shall you grieve.”

—Holy Qur’an, Surah 7, verses 48-49

“Now the whole world knows there is a direct causal connection between these products and the deaths of thousands of people, along with hundreds of thousands of adverse events (injuries) in this country alone....Even more shocking is that these numbers are being dismissed as inconsequential or coincidental....In addition, they are people who were simply living their lives until they were coerced and cajoled by the government into subjecting themselves to fatal injury. The 1976 swine flu pandemic mass vaccination campaign was abruptly canceled after 53 deaths. In less than 6 months the COVID vaccines have killed more people than all available vaccines combined over a 15-year period (1997-2013).”

“It is sinful that despite the harm being done to human beings, the government continues to heavily promote the uptake of these vaccines. They are using celebrities, professional athletes, preachers, politicians, educators and everyday people to pressure us to ‘just get the shot.’ It is time for all of us to become more proactive in fighting this diabolical scheme. **The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan** has relentlessly stood up for Truth and for us for over 65 years. Can we just get behind him for once and for our own sake? These vaccines are being resisted by millions of people from every race, class and religion. We can defeat the Synagogue of Satan with the Help of Allah (God).”

“We are living in the Fullness of Time. So, when the **Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan** speaks a thing, it happens in a few months rather than in a few decades, as we see with the COVID-19 vaccines....**Minister Farrakhan** is what the **Honorable Elijah Muhammad** declared him to be: A star that has no equal. That would be the Sun. When you see and hear him, his voice and the truth he delivers is Sunlight: it has weight; it puts pressure on anything it touches. *When we follow his guidance, we are in the light. When we don’t, we are in the dark. We cannot prove his power is from any other source except Allah and His Christ. His view is an aerial view, because he is Divinely Guided.*”