

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL



In Loving Memory of

MINISTER DR. AVA MUHAMMAD

**STUDENT NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON FOR
THE HONORABLE MINISTER LOUIS FARRAKHAN AND THE NATION OF ISLAM**

NOVEMBER 9, 1950 - AUGUST 25, 2022

*“O soul that art at rest, Return to thy Lord, well-pleased,
well-pleasing, so enter among My servants, and enter My
Garden!”*

—Holy Qur’an 89:27-30

Order of Service



Greetings

Student Minister Ishmael Muhammad

Reading of Life Reflections

Student Minister Ishmael Muhammad

Remarks

Sister Cherelle Muhammad

Daughter of

*Student Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad &
Brother Darius Muhammad*

Words of Comfort

The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan
*National Representative of the Most
Honorable Elijah Muhammad*

Salaat-ul-Janaaza

(Prayer)

Processional

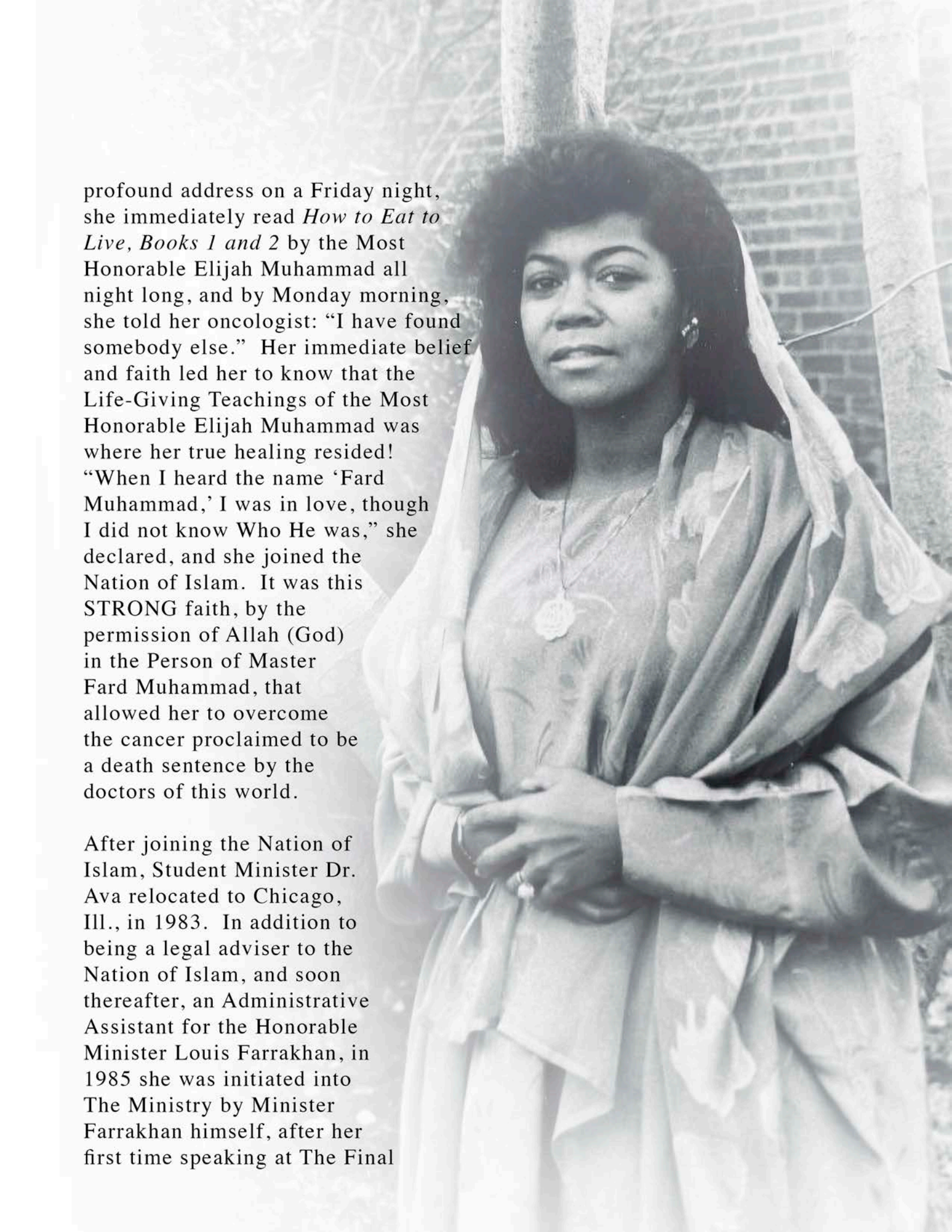


Reflections on the Life of a Wife, Mother, Sister and Servant

Student Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad was born Ava Atkinson to the late William H. and Gladys Louise Stovall Atkinson on November 9, 1950. She often spoke fondly of her idyllic upbringing in a prominent black enclave in Columbus, Ohio, where her parents instilled in her and her sisters, Carol and Lori, a love of history and literature and always ensured that they were aware of the events surrounding the Civil Rights Struggle. Through personal conversations and public speaking, Sister Ava often drew references to the strength of being reared in an environment where strong black marriages prevailed, and how that undergirded the foundation of her understanding that to have stable and thriving communities you must have stable and thriving marriages. In fact, in one of her publications, *Life in the New Millennium: How We Will Think and Eat*, she expressed the profound love her parents had for their children, and how “they were married many years, and they were married 15 years before their first child—which was me—finally came. They never got over the excitement of having children.” Family was everything to Sister Ava.

Student Minister Dr. Ava attended Columbus East High School, where a classmate reflected on how every time they saw her, she was never without a stack of books! She was honored to be the class speaker for her graduating class. The love of learning placed in her by her parents led her to graduate with honors early from Central State University with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1972. She went on to receive her Juris Doctorate in 1975 from Georgetown University Law School in Washington, D.C., and was admitted to the New York Bar the following year. Attendant upon her life has always been the spirit to fight for justice. It was not long before she was serving as the Assistant District Attorney in Queens, NY.

In 1980, fueled by that desire for justice, she went on to join other young black attorneys and started a successful criminal defense practice. It was during this time that she and her mother were diagnosed with breast cancer, and they began undergoing chemotherapy. Having lost her father to lung cancer while still in law school, Sister Ava found herself on a search for spiritual answers to these overwhelming circumstances. It was during this search that she happened upon a poster in Harlem, in late 1981, featuring a speaking engagement by the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan entitled, “Truth Crushed to the Earth Must Rise Again.” During that lecture, the words spoken by the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, “Allah empowers you to heal yourself,” impacted her deeply. After hearing that



profound address on a Friday night, she immediately read *How to Eat to Live, Books 1 and 2* by the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad all night long, and by Monday morning, she told her oncologist: "I have found somebody else." Her immediate belief and faith led her to know that the Life-Giving Teachings of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad was where her true healing resided! "When I heard the name 'Fard Muhammad,' I was in love, though I did not know Who He was," she declared, and she joined the Nation of Islam. It was this STRONG faith, by the permission of Allah (God) in the Person of Master Fard Muhammad, that allowed her to overcome the cancer proclaimed to be a death sentence by the doctors of this world.

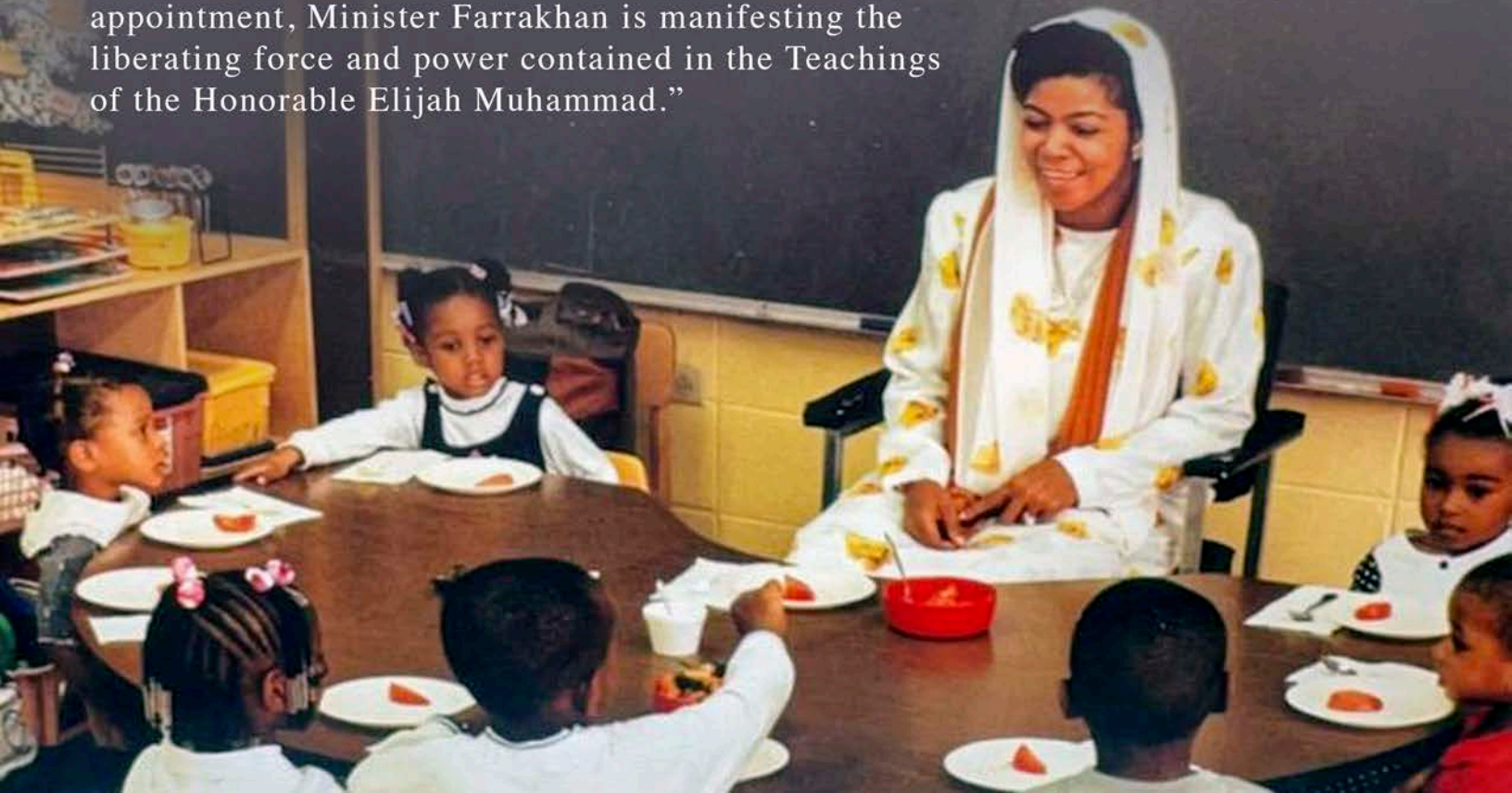
After joining the Nation of Islam, Student Minister Dr. Ava relocated to Chicago, Ill., in 1983. In addition to being a legal adviser to the Nation of Islam, and soon thereafter, an Administrative Assistant for the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, in 1985 she was initiated into The Ministry by Minister Farrakhan himself, after her first time speaking at The Final

Call Administration Building. She was a staunch defender of Minister Farrakhan throughout the country and the world; he counted her as one of his best ministers.

Among the many contributions she made to the Nation of Islam, a highly significant one was being an unadulterated vessel through which the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan was able to deliver the revelation of The Study Guides, “Self-Improvement: The Basis for Community Development”—a course of study that serves as an immeasurable tool of self-development gifted to humanity!

On August 19, 1989, she was wed to the one who would become her best friend next to Allah (God), Darius Muhammad. Together, as they traveled the globe, she continued to address audiences in almost every major city in America, London, the Caribbean, and more. Their personal love of travel took them to places such as Fiji, Aruba, Hawaii, Egypt and Mexico, and they were exceptionally excited for the opportunity to travel on a Concorde jet to Paris. In 1991, they were blessed to make pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Sister Ava and Brother Darius always encouraged and inspired others to travel. Brother Darius, an accomplished photographer with an artistic eye, documented their life and journeys together, with many of his photos becoming her book covers and lecture covers.

On July 28, 1998, in Atlanta, Ga., the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan appointed Student Minister Dr. Ava as the first Muslim woman in modern history to a position of authority over a mosque anywhere in the world. She stated on that unprecedented day: “It is my fervent prayer that I succeed in my assignment, in order to help The Minister in his effort to destroy the myth that women are inferior beings who cannot preach the word or shepherd the flock. Through my appointment, Minister Farrakhan is manifesting the liberating force and power contained in the Teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.”



She served as the Nation of Islam's Southern Regional Minister from 1998 to 2000; and shortly thereafter, was appointed to the position of National Spokesperson for the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam. She was also personally selected by Minister Farrakhan to serve on The Executive Shura Council of the Nation of Islam, as well as the Nation of Islam's Research Group.

Student Minister Dr. Ava withstood the trials of being "the first" in many areas of her life, always desiring for the black man and woman to see themselves as Allah (God) sees them, His Chosen People. She especially desired to empower black women through her various platforms, featuring works too numerous to mention.

One of the greatest joys Sister Ava experienced in life was being a mother and a grandmother. She adored her daughters, Sasha and Cherelle, and her grandchildren, Amir and Amirah, immensely. One of her greatest desires was for her children and grandchildren to come out from under the harsh reality of racism in America, and this served as a major impetus for the drive for separation as outlined in "The Muslim Program" by the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

Student Minister Dr. Ava Muhammad manifested her deep, abiding love for her teacher, the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, and the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad and Master Fard Muhammad, through her tireless works on behalf of black people the world over, in Their Names. She was a beloved helper to her teacher, a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend, mentor, attorney, student minister, author, and radio host. But above all, she was a Believing Woman, and wore the best title, Muslim. She was a star.

Sister Ava leaves to cherish her memory her beloved husband and best friend of 33 years, Darius; two daughters, Sasha and Cherelle; two grandchildren, Amir and Amirah; two sisters, Carole (Julian) and Lori (Calvin); brothers-in-law Curtis, Michael, Jerry and Terry; sisters-in-law Shirley Ann, Shirley Jean and Crystal; a host of nieces and nephews—and a Nation that loved her dearly.

Faith is when you have the direct experience of the decision-making function that removes you from 'belief' to certainty. Faith is not a theory. Faith is a direct experience in your own life, and that experience is what destroys doubt in your mind.

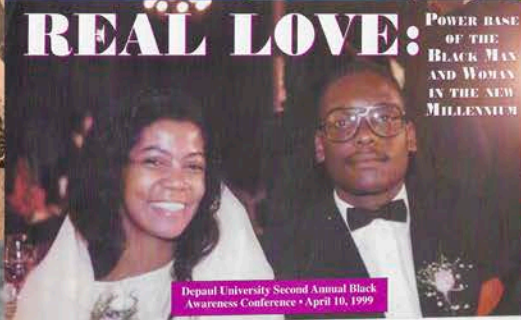
A New Way of Life, Chapter 3





REAL LOVE:

POWER BASE OF THE BLACK MAN AND WOMAN IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM



DePaul University Second Annual Black Awareness Conference • April 10, 1999

October 13, 1989



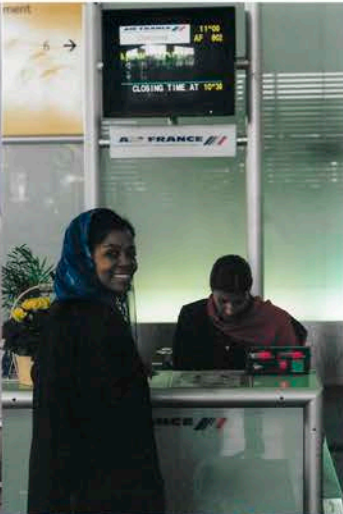
Wedding Bells

Minister Farrakhan and wife Kadajah join Darius and Ava Muhammad who were married on Aug. 19 at Mosque Maryam. Sister Ava is the administrative assistant to Minister Farrakhan, who performed the wedding ceremony.

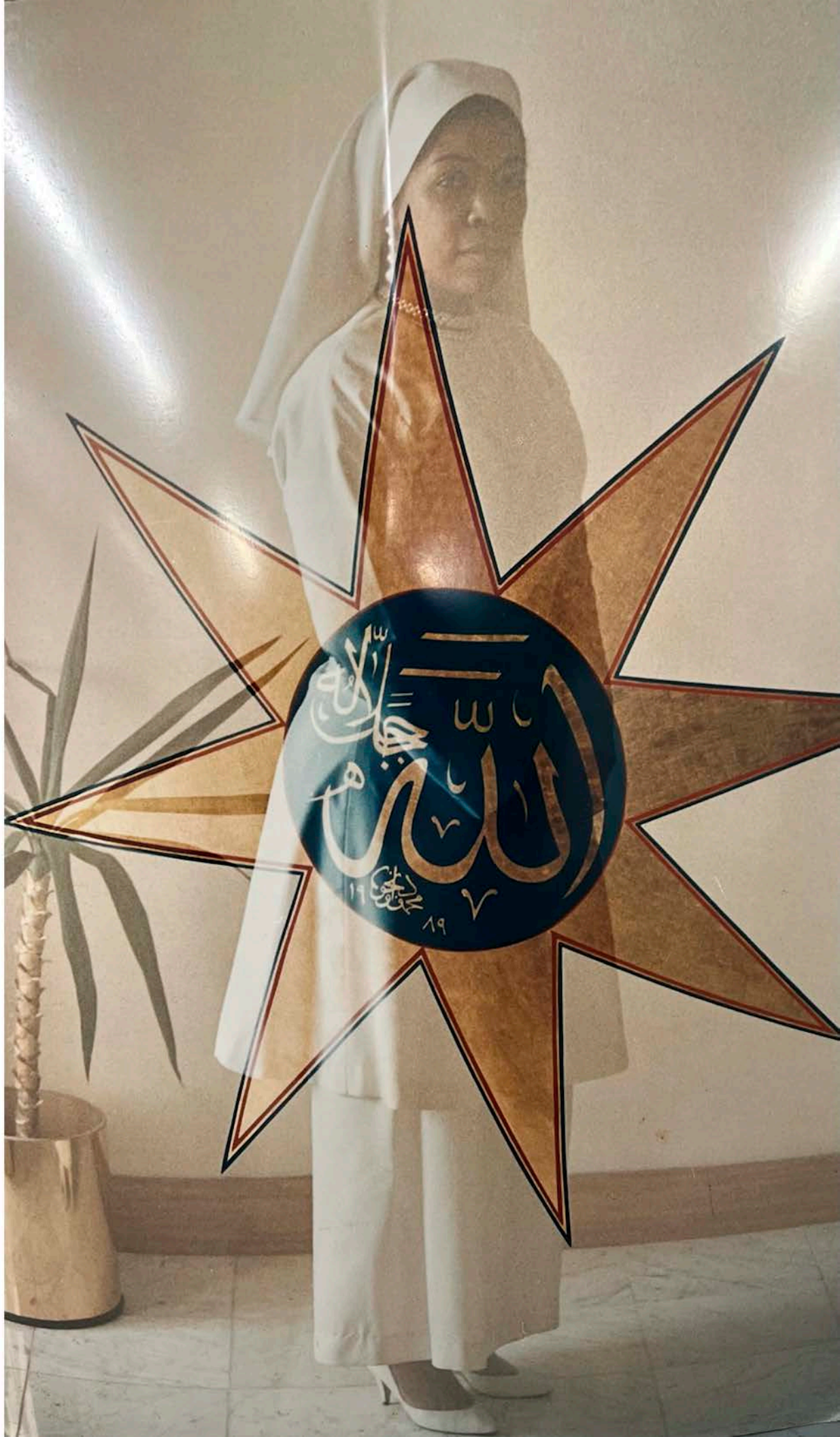


Celebration SEP 27, 2019









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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL

“O you who believe, seek assistance through patience and prayer; surely Allah is with the patient. 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 2:153-154

A Special Thank You

The family expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, his family, The Nation of Islam, loved ones and friends for your prayers and support.

JANAAZA PRAYER SERVICE
MOSQUE MARYAM – CHICAGO, IL
SEPTEMBER 3, 2022

INTERMENT
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