

# Moorish Science Temple of America

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## RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

**Required Daily Observances.** A good Moslem prays both day and night. All Moorish-Americans – members of the Moorish Science Temple of America (MST of A) – must keep their hearts and minds pure with love and their bodies clean with water. They are to treat men with friendship and have a great appreciation for womanhood. They must live a life of love, and live the teachings of Islam.

Moorish-Americans do not eat pork or anything that will harm them. The Holy Prophet Noble Drew Ali did not drink or smoke and told the Moors to imitate him. Moors are not to use anything that would serve to shorten their life or destroy themselves.

**Required Weekly Observances.** Moorish-Americans are required to attend congregational worship services on Friday, the Holy Day, and Sunday School classes on Sunday.

Worship in congregation is very important for Moslems because the Prophet Mohammed said that it is 27 times more valuable to worship in congregation than to worship alone.

Holy Day Service opens with the saying of the Moorish-American Prayer in unison by

the congregation, led by the Chairman of the Temple. After the prayer, the Chairman reads the Divine Laws from the Holy Prophet Noble Drew Ali by which all Moors are bound. The Chairman then reads from the Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple of America to the audience.

The Chairman calls speakers and officials to speak religious sermons to the audience; these speeches must conform to the Divine Principles of Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom, and Justice. Speakers base their sermons on the teachings of the Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple of America and those of Allah's Prophets. No speech is to be radical or inflammatory against anyone or any group. Speakers try to limit their speeches to 15 minutes.

The Chairman calls on the speakers in order, so that the highest-ranking official speaks last. At the end of every meeting, a "Warning" from the Holy Prophet is read. The meeting closes with repeating the Moorish-American Prayer in unison.

Sunday School opens in the same manner as a Holy Day Meeting, then the Chairman turns the class over to the Sunday School teacher. The class is taught from a booklet called the Questionnaire, and continues into the study of the Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple of America. After the class, there is a reading of the "Warning," and the audience is led in reciting the Moorish-American Prayer.

### **Required Occasional Observances**

- Moorish-American Tag Day, March 17.
- Anniversary of the Young People Moorish National League, First Saturday in December.
- Anniversary of the Sisters' Auxiliary, Third Saturday in December.

### **Required Holy Days**

The following holy days are days of work proscription.

- January 8, Prophet Noble Drew Ali's Birthday.
- January 15, Moorish-American New Year.

## **RELIGIOUS ITEMS**

### **Personal Religious Items**

- Fez (red color only).
- Holy Koran of the MST of A.
- Wallet-size picture of Noble Drew Ali.
- Circle Seven medallion and chain.
- Two small lapel pins.

**Security note:** Fezzes and lapel pins may be worn during services in the Chapel area only.

## **Congregate Religious Items**

- Holy Koran of the MST of A.
- Questionnaire.
- Humanity Book.
- Moorish Literature.
- Divine Constitution and By-Laws.
- Moorish-American Newspaper.
- A Moorish Flag and an American Flag, to be displayed at every Temple or Branch Temple meeting.
  - A Charter or Warrant of Authority, to be issued to every Temple or Branch Temple, and displayed in the front of the meeting place before the audience.
  - Branch Temple Information.
  - Oral Statements of Prophet Noble Drew Ali.
  - Picture of Prophet Noble Drew Ali.
  - Picture of "The Great Meeting Is On."
  - Mufti Law Books.

## **SEARCHES**

While Moorish Science Temple of America inmates place great value in their Holy Koran and other religious items, these can be handled by other people. Staff are expected to show the same respect for such items as for religious articles belonging to all traditions. Religious articles are not to be mishandled, thrown, placed on the floor, brought into the bathroom, or placed on the toilet or basin.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**Requirements.** Membership is free, not only in the U.S. but all over the world. Members must proclaim their Nationality and must proclaim and practice Love, Truth, Peace,

Freedom, and Justice, preserve the Holy and Divine laws of the Moorish Science Temple of America, and obey the laws of the government.

Members must promptly attend meetings and become a part of all uplifting acts of the Moorish Science Temple of America.

**Security note:** Nationality Cards are not authorized in Bureau institutions. Inmates may only have one ID card, their Commissary card.

**Total Membership.** The Moorish Science Temple of America's membership count is not known accurately, but there could be more than 1 million card-carrying members around the country. There are more than 260 Branch Temples.

## **MEDICAL PROHIBITIONS**

Moorish-Americans are expected to submit to prescribed medical treatment by doctors, dentists, or other health specialists.

## **DIETARY STANDARDS**

Moorish-Americans are prohibited from eating pork products. Their religious dietary needs can ordinarily be met through self-selection from the mainline, including the no-flesh option.

## **BURIAL RITUALS**

A funeral service is conducted just as a Holy Day Service. The ministers read from the Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple of America, generally Chapter 4, which deals with death and how Moors accept it. At the gravesite, the Holy Koran is read again and the Moorish-American prayer is recited.

## **SACRED WRITINGS**

- The Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple of America.
- The Divine Constitution and By-Laws.
- The Great Meeting is On!
- Koran Questions for Moorish Americans (Questionnaire).

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

### **Headquarters Location**

