Mohammed’s followers include 1,800 Members of Cult in Newark

Group of Black Race Describing Themselves as Moorish-Americans, Face Mecca Three Daily in Supplications.

One meets it in various parts of the downtown area. The men are bearded and wear red caps. The women wear garments of red, green and white. Members of the black race, they object to being called Negroes. They describe themselves as Moorish-Americans. There are 1,800 in Newark and they comprise one of the strangest and most religious cults.

Three times each day at 6 A.M., noon and 6 P.M. — the Moorish-Americans face the holy city of Mecca and wave their arms outstretched in religious fervor, they chant:

"Allah, the Father of the universe; father of love, truth, peace, freedom and justice. Allah is my protector, my guide and my salvation. By night and by day, through His Holy Prophet, Drew All religion was founded by Prophet Noble Drew All, who appears to be a reincarnation of Mohammed. He hails from Chicago, where he started the cult in 1918.

The Newark group was organized in 1926. The first meeting was held in Moor Hall, Bank and Rutgers streets.

There are similar temples in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Jersey City, Baltimore, Brooklyn, Augusta and Charleston. The Moorish-Americans are not Moslems but in the strict sense. They recognize the founders of Islamism as great religious teachers, classifying Mohammed with Christ, Confucius and Buddha, they have set up the prophet in the person of Noble Drew Ali. They do, however, in the present of their religious duties, follow closely the teachings of the Koran and the prophet, Mohammed, that other-established belief or creed. They do not use wine, spirits, pork, or eggs. Eggs are taboo because "they contain life." Fish only can be eaten, because "fish die when they are taken from the water and, do not need to be slaughtered." The body must have scales.

This Moorish-Americans do not drink alcoholic liquors and indulges in tobacco in any form. They are taught that and cannot do it.

The cult knows no divorces but does not forbid it. Followers are bound to "obey the laws of government, because you are as part of the government you must live accordingly." The code commands the faithful to "cause any confusion or overthrow of the laws of the constitution, but to obey.

Moorish-Americans are not permitted to shave or cut their hair. There is a Moorish-American barber shop on Waverly Avenue, near Brown street, where the barbers have long hair and beards and wear frocks while at work. None of the persons, of course, are Moorish-Americans.

William Granit, appointed Grand Sheik by Prophet Noble Drew All, is in command of the local flock. He governs with the aid of an "advisory chamber," an advisory board made up of thirty members of the cult.

The Grand Sheik's house is spotless and pervaded with heavy incense. Various religious objects hang on the walls. The name of each man is followed by "be" or "el," depending on which sounds best.

Friday is their Sabbath. January 9 is akin to Christmas and January 8 is regarded as New Year's Day. July 23 is known as Memorial Day, because "Prophet Noble Drew All passed away on July 20, 1929, and was reincarnated on August 27, that year, as Mohammed sd."

Prophees Noble Drew All in addition to riding his followers, sells "an old Egyptian remedy for rheumatism, indigestion, etc."