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Tricities Islamic Center

Tikia Williams

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On Friday October 2, 2015 at approximately 1:15pm I attended a Muslim mosque located at 1710 East Hundred Road, Chester, VA 23836. My mothers’ friend is Muslim so she invited me to tag along with her to see how everything was and how they did things at the mosque she attends. She did explain to me before I came to make sure I wrapped my hair so that it was not visible with a scarf. She also stated that jeans were acceptable to wear if I decided to do so and to also make sure that my body was covered as well.

The building was located in an area along with other buildings that appeared to be offices. I notice when arriving there was more than one entrance. The front entrance was for the men, and the back entrance was for the woman. When entering the building I seen there was more than one room. The first room was for the women and the second room was for the men. Inside the room it was very spacious and open. In the room there were a few rugs on the floor that we could sit on, but before sitting on the rugs I noticed that we had to take off our shoes. They did have a few chairs in the room for people to sit in, and by observance they were there for the elderly women who could not get up and down on the floor. I did not observe much of any artwork or symbols hanging around or in the building. I did notice that towards the front of the room was a large size speaker in front of the rugs. The Imam’s voice came through the speaker so us women could hear what he was saying in the room with the men.

While we were there waiting until it started there was a woman who walked around the room and greeted everyone individually and chatted with a few people. I was not sure if she was someone important or if she was just a regular attender who decided to go around and greet everyone on her own. The majority of the women there that day ages ranged around thirty years of age or older. I didn’t see any kids except one younger boy he was maybe about seven, and was sitting beside his mother playing a game on her phone the majority of the time. My mothers’ friend and myself were probably the youngest women in there that Friday. All of the women that were there seemed to be Arabic because of the language I heard them speak to one another. My mothers’ friend that I attended with is mixed with black and white. Her father whom is black belongs to that particular mosque and that is why she goes and has been going since she was younger. She told me that only her father, sister and her attend that mosque. She also stated that her mother did not which I am assuming she is inferring that her mother is not Muslim. I am not really sure what social class the women in the room belonged in there was nothing that stood out to me about them that I would have automatically known or identified them as.

In all there were approximately about ten of us women in the room that attended that
tone because in my opinion, prayer to me is an emotional time when you talk to your God. The whole experience was very peaceful and I enjoyed it. I would not mind going again and inviting others to come join me. Being that I am a person that is not designated to a specific religion I think Muslim will be something I would look into to precede as my religion in the near future.

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day which is kind of a small number for such a large spacious place they have. I felt very comfortable there it seemed very warm and welcomed. Since I went there with my mothers’ friend I was able to ask her many different questions, so I was fortunate enough to have someone that I knew that could explain everything to me.

During my visit at this particular place of worship they have a man who is called an Imam. The Imam did not speak in person but through a large speaker. He opened up reciting a prayer in a song like tone in Arabic language. After the prayer the Imam then switched to speaking English. He began speaking about different things, but some things I thought were interesting. He talked a lot about the earth and moon. He also talked about money and wealth and how the things we have now is because someone made them before us. I can say that when I was there no one was shy to participate everyone there was engaging and joining in. Once the Imam was done speaking it was time for prayer. My mothers’ friend and I just so happen to be sitting more towards the back at this time. The same lady who went around and greeted everyone told us to come up closer to the front rugs because there were some empty spaces. As I said before it was not a whole bunch of people there so it was plenty of space. To me the whole thing seemed to be more ritualistic rather then spontaneous, they seemed to have certain ways to do things. So after we take a place standing at our rugs we begin to pray. The prayer that I was participating in consisted of standing and sitting crouched down on all fours multiple times. After prayer is over now you can leave and that is the end, it maybe lasted at least 30 minutes or so, which is not very long at all. To me I think it had an emotional/peaceful