

'Muslim' Prays Five Times a Day

By MARGARET MARA

Brooklyn's second mosque, founded as a Moslem house of worship, is located in a converted dwelling at 143 State St. It is known as the Islamic Mission and its leader is Sheikh (pronounced Shaheek) Daoud Ahmed Faisal, a dark-skinned, bearded Moroccan who wears a fez bound round with white cotton in turban style. With this exotic headgear he wears a pin stripe blue suit and a white shirt. He wears no necktie but a long string of wooden beads hangs from his neck. The beads are "prayer counters."

With the zeal of an evangelist, Sheikh Daoud Ahmed Faisal exhorts all peoples who "turned away from Islam."

Twenty years ago the Sheikh was conducting a dramatic school at the State St. address. He abandoned dramatics five years later and turned to religion. His lectures on Islam each Sunday at noon attract people of many faiths, including Christian clergymen.

The Sheikh refers to his followers as "Muslims," not as "Moslems." On the street level at 143 State St. is the lecture room and school equipped with school desks and chairs and a plain table where sits the Sheikh. On an upper floor is a large room for prayer. The floor is completely covered with carpeting and the Koran stands on a mantel.

Next to Godliness

Shoes are left outside the door when the devout enter to pray. Furthermore, the Moslems are required to wash their feet before entering. Immediately outside the devotional room is a novel washing contrivance—a low trough or basin, equipped with water faucets.

Personal cleanliness goes hand in hand with religious devotion, according to Moslem edicts.

From the Sheikh I learned that the greatest population of Moslems is found in Pakistan. Sailors from the Far East frequently are seen at the State St. mosque, coming from ships docking at the nearby waterfront.

The Sheikh is the author of a book titled "Al-Islam." The sub-



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title is "The Religion of Humanity." It is written in English with phonetic translations of Arabic prayers and devout ejaculations. Included are the five daily prayers of the Moslem—morning prayer, early afternoon prayer, late afternoon prayer, sunset prayer and early night prayer.

According to the book, it would appear that a truly devout Muslim spends most of his waking day in prayer or preparing for prayer.

Before each of the five daily prayers he is required to (1) wash his hands and arms to the elbow, (2) clean his mouth with toothbrush or water, (3) clean his nostrils with water, (4) wash his face three times, (5) wipe the head three times with wet hands, (6) wash the feet up to the ankles.

In Pakistan, they have the time.