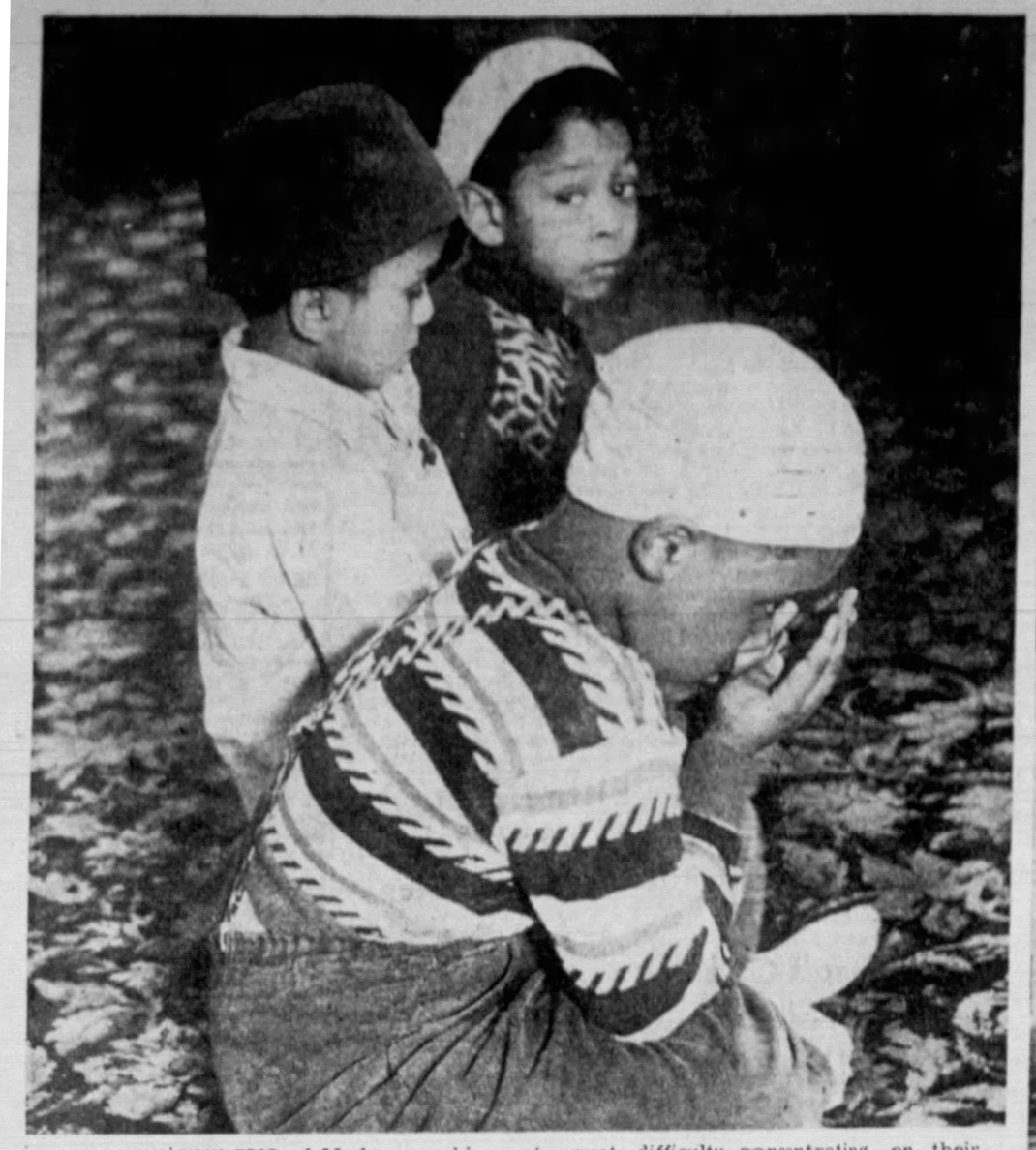


THIS TINY TRIO of Moslem worshipers at the Institute of Islam, Brooklyn, N. Y., have great difficulty concentrating on their prayers as the photographer snaps them.

WHITE-ROBED REVEREND Sheikh Faisal imparts some religious history to a group of Moslem students at the house of worship founded by the priest (imam) in 1939.

Facing Mecca, the faithful are shown in various positions that are prescribed for each prayer.

Islam in New York

IN 1939 A STATELY old red brick house in Brooklyn, N. Y., was opened as a Moslem mosque by the Reverend Sheikh Faisal. Since then, tens of thousands of Moslems have worshiped there.

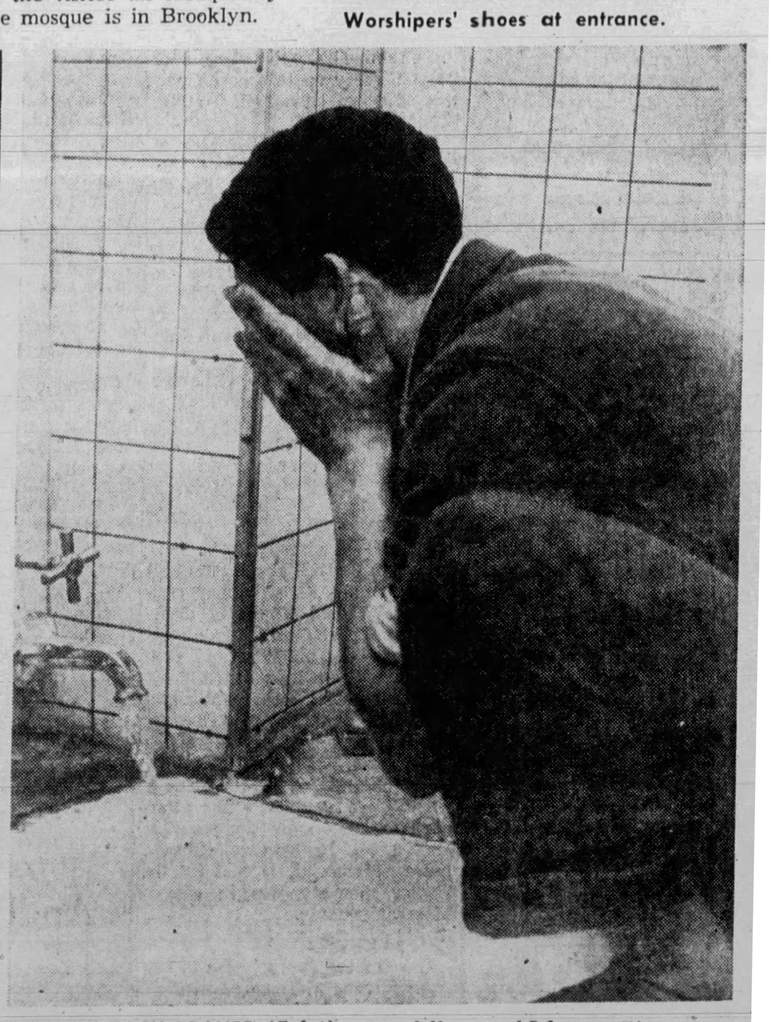
Every man who professes Islam is required to worship God five times a day. The hours for prayer are at dawn or just before sunrise, just after noon, before sunset, just after sunset, and just as the day has closed. Throughout the day the faithful may be seen entering the mosque attired in Western clothes. They usually bring with them the traditional robes worn during prayer. Before entering the interior rooms, all shoes must be removed, hands, feet and face washed. Women worship in a separate room.

Once inside the mosque a visitor feels he is in a foreign land as he watches the faithful repeat the Moslem creed, "There is no god but God (Allah); Mohammed is the apostle of God." Suddenly the air is rent with screams of sirens as the engines roll from their firehouses a short distance away and the visitor all too quickly remembers that the mosque is in Brooklyn.

Worshipers' shoes at entrance.

THE BEARDED LEADER and founder of the Islamic Mission of America, the Reverend Sheikh Faisal stands at the entrance to the quarters that serve as the Moslem mosque.

THE CONGREGATION'S CHANTER leads his followers in prayers. He stands on the steps of a small platform during the reading.



BEFORE EACH PRAYER (Salat) every follower of Islam must wash his face, hands (to the elbows) and feet as prescribed.

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