

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Abdullah:

The Quran does say, and Allah knows best and may Allah forgive me if I say it wrong, it says that from Allah we come from and to Allah we shall return. That's all I have to say. I'm not a real elegant speaker, but I'm not trying to be. I'm Abdul [inaudible 00:00:24]. My address here on Saratoga Street is 313. I became a Muslim in the prison system 23 years ago. What's it done for me? Well, it made me quit some

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of the negative things I was doing like drinking, hanging on the corner, selling drugs. You name it, I had probably done it out in the street.

Speaker 2:

What did you get put away for?

Abdullah:

Dealing drugs. I had eight years but part of the sentence was suspended and I did, maybe, like 20 months behind the wall. You never know what Allah have in store for you. I mean, some of us, myself included, would have stayed on the street and no telling we might not be here today. It kind of turned into a blessing. From Allah we come from and to Allah we shall return.

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