

Makkah, I no longer subscribe to sweeping indictments of any one race. I am now striving to live the life of a true Sunni Muslim. I must repeat that I am not a racist nor do I subscribe to the tenets of racism. I can state in all sincerity that I wish nothing but freedom, justice and equality, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all people.”

After the Pilgrimage: White reporters and others were eager to learn about El-Hajj Malik’s newly-formed opinions concerning themselves. They hardly believed that the man who had preached against them for so many years could suddenly turn around & call them brothers. To these people El-Hajj Malik had this to say: “You’re asking me ‘Didn’t you say that now you accept white men as brothers?’ Well, my answer is that in the Muslim world, I saw, I felt, and I wrote home how my thinking was broadened! Just as I wrote, I shared true, brotherly love with white-complexioned Muslims who never gave a single thought to the race, or to the complexion, of another Muslim.

“My pilgrimage broadened my scope. It blessed me with a new insight. In two weeks in the Holy Land, I saw what I never had seen in thirty-nine years here in America. I saw all races, all colours – blue-eyed blonds to black-skinned Africans – in true brotherhood! In unity! Living as one! Worshipping as one! No segregationists – no liberals; they would not have known how to interpret the meaning of those words. “In the past, yes, I have made sweeping indictments of all white people. I will never be guilty of that again – as I know now that some white people are truly sincere, that some truly are capable of being brotherly toward a black man. The true Islam has shown me that **a blanket indictment of all white people is as wrong as when whites make blanket indictments against blacks.** In the Muslim world, I had seen that men with white complexions were more genuinely brotherly than anyone else had ever been. That day was the start of a radical alteration in my whole outlook about white men.”

To the blacks who looked to him as a leader, El-Hajj Malik preached a new message, quite the opposite of what he had been preaching as a minister in the Nation of Islam: “**True Islam** taught me that it takes all of the religious, political, economic, psychological & racial ingredients, or characteristics, to make the Human Family & Society complete. Only when mankind would submit to the One God who created all – only then would mankind even approach the ‘peace’ of which so much talk could be heard...but toward which so little action was seen.”

Too Dangerous to Last: El-Hajj Malik’s new universalistic message was the US establishment’s worst nightmare. Not only was he appealing to the black masses, but to intellectuals of all races & colours. Now he was

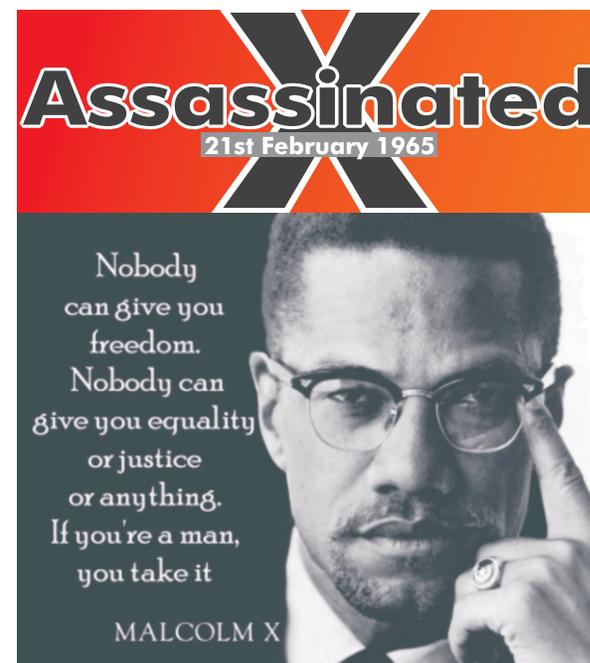
consistently demonized by the press as “advocating violence” and being “militant,” although in actuality he and Dr. Martin Luther King were moving closer together in outlook: “The goal has always been the same, with the approaches to it as different as mine & Dr. King’s non-violent marching, that dramatizes the brutality & the evil of the white man against defenseless blacks. And in the racial climate of this country today, it is anybody’s guess which of the “extremes” in approach to the black man’s problems might personally meet a fatal catastrophe first – ‘non-violent’ Dr. King, or so-called ‘violent’ me.”

El-Hajj Malik knew that he was a target of many groups. In spite of this, he was never afraid to say what he had to say when he had to say it. As a sort of epitaph at the end of his autobiography, he says: “I know that societies often have killed the people who have helped to change those societies. **And if I can die having brought any light, having exposed any meaningful truth that will help to destroy the racist cancer that is malignant in the body of America – then, all of the credit is due to God.** Only the mistakes have been mine.”

The Legacy of Malcolm X: Although El-Hajj Malik knew that he was a target for assassination, he accepted this fact without requesting police protection. On February 21, 1965, while preparing to give a speech at a New York hotel, he was shot by three black men. He was three months short of forty. While it is clear that the Nation of Islam had something to do with the assassination, many people believe there was more than one organization involved. We may never know for sure who was behind El-Hajj Malik’s murder. This crime, like all other unsolved crimes, will have their day in the True Court of God on the Day of Judgment.

His messages are simple & clear: “**I am not a racist in any form whatever. I don’t believe in any form of racism. I don’t believe in any form of discrimination or segregation. I believe in Islam. I am a Muslim.**” Malcolm X’s life has affected millions in many important ways.

“WITHOUT EDUCATION, YOU’RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE IN THIS WORLD... THE ABILITY TO READ AWOKED INSIDE OF ME SOME LONG DORMANT CRAVING TO BE MENTALLY ALIVE. ONE DAY, MAY WE ALL MEET TOGETHER IN THE LIGHT OF UNDERSTANDING.”



You can **murder** the body but you cannot **kill** ideas. Malcolm’s speeches & sermons combined exhortation to justice, dignity, and righteousness, with extraordinary eloquence. His ideas are very important **today** as they were 45 years ago. They are important because contrary to Dr. King, Malcolm X was able to articulate in a very lucid & precise manner the “**psychology of racism.**” Malcolm X remains a great inspiration. His words uplift & exhilarate. There is something about this man that ignites the Fire in the Soul. Malcolm X uses very simple language...and yet what he refers to is **not** simplistic by any means. Malcolm X’s lucid perceptions and poignant wisdom are still very valid today...**and since not much has changed since his physical death...**there’s more of a reason to keep his memory, words & vision alive. Ignite the **Fire** within...

Quran 49:13

“O mankind! We created you of a male & a female & have made you nations & tribes that you may **come to know one another.** The most honoured of you, in the sight of God, is the most righteous.”

AMERICA NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND ISLAM, BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONE RELIGION THAT ERASES FROM ITS SOCIETY THE RACE PROBLEM

Although the great civil rights battles of the 1960s ended segregation in the United States, the lot of black Americans is still a delicate and difficult issue. Though Christianity has similar universal claims as those of Islam, and though segregation in the form of existence of churches exclusively for whites or blacks has been formally ended in America, informal, habitual and ideological segregation still persists. Racial discrimination & segregation” on the basis of the colour of the skin still remains to be completely eliminated. There are many lessons for us in Malcolm’s unfolding journey to the brotherhood of Islam. “We declare our right on this earth...to be a human being, to be respected as a human being, to be given the rights of a human being in this society, on this earth, in this day, which we intend to bring into existence by any means necessary.” Let us examine our thoughts & make the necessary adjustments as he was brave enough to do.

From racism to justice.

“At one or another college or university, usually in the informal gatherings after I had spoken, perhaps a dozen generally white-complexioned people would come up to me, identifying themselves as Arabian, Middle Eastern or North African Muslims who happened to be visiting, studying, or living in the United States. They had said to me that, my white-indicting statements notwithstanding, they felt I was sincere in considering myself a Muslim – and they felt if I was exposed to what they always called true Islam, I would understand it, and embrace it. Automatically, as a follower of Elijah, I had bridled whenever this was said. But in the privacy of my own thoughts after several of these experiences, I did question myself: if one was sincere in professing a religion, why should he balk at broadening his knowledge of that religion?”

When Al-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz was in Makkah, he wrote a letter to his loyal assistants in Harlem... from his heart: “Never have I witnessed such sincere hospitality & overwhelming spirit of true brotherhood as is

practiced by people of all colours & races here in this ancient Holy Land, the home of Abraham, Muhammad & all the other Prophets of the Holy Scriptures. For the past week, I have been utterly speechless & spellbound by the graciousness I see displayed all around me by people of all colours.

I have been blessed to visit the Holy City of Makkah, I have made my seven circuits around the Kabah, led by a young Mutawaf named Muhammad. I drank water from the well of the Zamzam. I ran seven times back and forth between the hills of Mt. Al-Safa and Al-Marwah. I have prayed in the ancient city of Mina, and I have prayed on Mt. Arafat.

There were tens of thousands of pilgrims, from all over the world. They were of all colours, from blue-eyed blondes to black-skinned Africans. But we were all participating in the same ritual, displaying a spirit of unity and brotherhood that my experiences in America had led me to believe never could exist between the white and non-white. Throughout my travels in the Muslim world, I have met, talked to, and even eaten with people who in America would have been considered white – but the white attitude was removed from their minds by the religion of Islam. I have never before seen sincere & true brotherhood practiced by all colours together, irrespective of their colour.

You may be shocked by these words coming from me. But on this pilgrimage, what I have seen & experienced, has forced me to rearrange much of my thought-patterns previously held, and to toss aside some of my previous conclusions. This was not too difficult for me. Despite my firm convictions, I have always been a man who tries to face facts, and to accept the reality of life as new experience and new knowledge unfolds. I have always kept an open mind, which is necessary to the flexibility that must go hand in hand with every form of intelligent search for truth.

During the past eleven days here in the Muslim world, I have eaten from the same plate, drunk from the same glass, and slept on the same rug – while praying to the same God – with fellow Muslims, whose eyes were the bluest of blue, whose hair was the blondest of blond, and whose skin was the whitest of white. And in the words and in the deeds of the white Muslims, I felt the same sincerity that I felt among the black African Muslims of Nigeria, Sudan and Ghana.

We were truly all the same (brothers) because their belief in one God had removed the white from their minds, the white from their behavior, and the white from their

attitude. I could see from this, that perhaps if white Americans could accept the Oneness of God, then perhaps, too, they could accept in reality the Oneness of Man – and cease to measure, and hinder, and harm others in terms of their ‘differences’ in colour.

With racism plaguing America like an incurable cancer, the so-called “Christian” white American heart should be more receptive to a proven solution to such a destructive problem. Perhaps it could be in time to save America from imminent disaster – the same destruction brought upon Germany by racism that eventually destroyed the Germans themselves.

Each hour here in the Holy Land enables me to have greater spiritual insights into what is happening in America between black and white. The American Negro never can be blamed for his racial animosities – he is only reacting to four hundred years of the conscious racism of the American whites. But as racism leads America up the suicide path, I do believe, from the experiences that I have had with them, that the whites of the younger generation, in the colleges and universities, will see the handwriting on the walls and many of them will turn to the spiritual path of truth – the only way left to America to ward off the disaster that racism inevitably must lead to.

Never have I been so highly honoured. Never have I been made to feel more humble and unworthy. Who would believe the blessings that have been heaped upon an American Negro? A few nights ago, a man who would be called in America a white man, a United Nations diplomat, an ambassador, a companion of kings, gave me his hotel suite, his bed. Never would I have even thought of dreaming that I would ever be a recipient of such honours – honours that in America would be bestowed upon a King – not a Negro.”

Malcolm X saw & experienced many positive things. Generosity & open-heartedness were qualities which were impressed on him by the welcome which he received in many places. He saw brotherhood and the brotherhood of different races and this led him to disclaim racism and to say: “I am not a racist...In the past I permitted myself to be used...to make sweeping indictments of all white people, the entire white race, and these generalizations have caused injuries to some whites who perhaps did not deserve to be hurt. Because of the spiritual enlightenment which I was blessed to receive as the result of my recent pilgrimage to the Holy City of

**“To me the earth’s most explosive & pernicious evil is racism,
the inability of God’s creatures to live as One...”**

The Autobiography of Malcolm X, 1965

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