

Malcolm's Doom Decreed By God, Not The Messenger

By Abdul Basit Naeem
Final Installment

The first time I realized that the late Brother Malcolm X and I stood literally worlds apart in our views on publicity and public relations endeavors in behalf of the Nation of Islam is when, in a conversation with me about two or three months before he was removed as Minister of Muhammad's Mosque No. 7 in New York City, he had called certain European (white) reporters and columnists his "good friends."

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To further elaborate my viewpoint, I would like to state unequivocally that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad alone possesses the right to speak "with the fullest authority" on the Nation of Islam.

To assure myself that I had heard the "able and trusted follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad"



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right, I asked him to repeat "what you've just said..." I had heard him correctly all right—Minister Malcolm even explained to me how interested and understanding his good friends were.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, the "new Malcolm" deeply perplexed me: His latest perspective on many matters pertaining to the Nation of Islam represented a sharp departure from his old "established line." Moreover, it certainly did not reflect the respected Messenger's philosophy and wisdom—as Brother Malcolm himself had often expounded and interpreted it to me.

At the same time that Malcolm X had stopped seeing the "devil behind the deep blue eyes and coming right through the colorless skin" of his new-found "friends," I also noticed that many of his statements appearing in the various (white) newspapers no longer contained the customary references to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. That is to say, instead of stating that "the Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us that..." or "the Honorable Messenger says such and such..." Malcolm X was now expressing himself in the first person (I say..., I believe, etc.).

CONVINCED THAT THE (white) people of the news media obviously recognizing Malcolm's fondness for publicity as his major weakness — were determined to exploit it and thus "hurt" him, I tried (in my own particular way) to warn him of their evil designs. I remember telling him bluntly at one time that the (white) media were out to "use" him and that "they may try somehow to set you against the others in the Nation of Islam..."

I had arrived at this logical conclusion as I failed to see why or how those who bitterly criticized the Hon-

orable Elijah Muhammad and vehemently opposed every single aspect of his Islamic movement would simultaneously want to "build up" and enhance the stature of one particular individual out of the Messenger's many capable laborers. Brother Malcolm, of course, failed to perceive and heed my fraternal warning.

True, the Nation of Islam is no longer the fragile seedling of two decades ago; it has today (All praises are due to Allah!) well-established roots as well as the capacity to survive both the poisonous nature of its environment and the menace of evil hands constantly seeking to reach and tear at its limbs. The Muslims thus need not fear, shun or shy away from the curious and inquisitive reporters—white or non-white. But must we deliberately risk and put our strength to test — through extensive, incessant "exposure" — as Malcolm apparently favored. In my humble opinion, the Muslims possess a formidable weapon of defense in keeping their true, intrinsic capabilities a "matter that's none of the devil's business."

LEST ANY OF the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's followers and my brothers, and sisters in Islam misunderstand me, I reiterate that I'm not, in principle, opposed to cooperating with the various media of information in this country. However, I shall not deny that I am personally very much

against the type of cooperation that Malcolm X had been permitted to extend . . . especially to the white - controlled media elements.

To further elaborate my viewpoint, I would like to state unequivocally that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad alone possesses the right to speak "with the fullest authority" on the Nation of Islam. He alone can most adequately define its aspirations, its program and its objectives. He alone can advise his followers and offer them guidance in matters that affect them as a whole. He alone, therefore, has the inviolable and legitimate right to express the Muslims' collective opinion on national and international issues political, cultural or economic. Likewise, no one but the Honorable Elijah Muhammad should grant "official" interviews to journalists and writers seeking to learn more of his God-inspired work and accomplishments as well as personal philosophy and wisdom.

As pointed out in this series of articles, Malcolm X, by virtue of repeatedly ignoring and disrespecting the "rule" described immediately above, was guilty of exceeding the bounds prescribed for him as a Minister of one of Muhammad's Mosques of Islam. His dismissal from his post was thus inevitable as well as due and in order.

HOWEVER, I shudder at the thought of the "extreme punishment" decreed for him (not by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad as presumed and preposterously alluded by the Muslims' enemies but) by Allah (God) when the insubordinate and increasingly defiant "Mr. X" further attempted to deride and defame his own former mentor and leader: Eternal silence and confinement to a cold and dark underground vault.