

# Pakistani Writer: Tells of Malcolm's Legacy: Lies, Mistruths, Falsehoods

By Abdul Baset Naeem

I have personally no desire to write more than what I have already written during the past 12-month period on the subject of the late Malcolm X. I say this because I do not believe in "disturbing the dead," as some people would put it. Also, as a Muslim, I am bound by the many injunctions in the Holy Qur-an and the Hadith literature of our sacred faith that call for "utmost respect" as well as "prayerful sympathy" for a departed soul.

I MUST nevertheless — in the interest of truth and for the sake of the good name of my respected Brother, Honorable Elijah Muhammad, and his righteous followers — narrate an incident which occurred in Algeria during my recent visit to that country.



Naeem

A Senegalese friend of mine, two Asian journalists and I were sitting one afternoon in the lobby of Hotel Aletti, in Algiers. We were engaged in a friendly conversation on the Nation of Islam — a subject which (naturally!) often turned up whenever and wherever I happened to identify myself as a "Muslim residing in the U.S.A." Having overheard some of my remarks, a Lebanese newsman seated nearby motioned to me and asked if he could join us.

WE WERE discussing the American Muslim movement (led by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad) and not the U.S. Government involvement in Viet Nam, so I nodded to my colleague and pulled up a chair for him. Presently our little group gained several additional members, three of whom were high-ranking West African diplomats visiting Algiers in connection with the (postponed) "Bandung" conference.

IT TURNED OUT that the Lebanese newsman carried with him a copy of an Arabic - Islamic journal, "AL-MUSLIMOON," published in Geneva, Switzerland. It was the latest-available number of that periodical (he had picked it up while en route from Beirut to Algeria) and carried not one but three separate items pertaining to the late Malcolm X, one of which was described as the "last letter from Malcolm X." A photo reproduction of the original English - lan-

guage letter appeared next to the Arabic translation.

Pointing to a particular paragraph in the English version, our Lebanese friend bluntly asked me: "But why didn't (the Honorable) Elijah Muhammad allow Malcolm and others who left his (so-called "Black Muslim") movement to take their money with them?"

"WHAT MONEY?" I said, in complete astonishment. The Lebanese newsman again pointed to a specific segment of the letter reproduced in "AL-MUSLIMOON." Sure enough, it stated and I quote below:

"Also, upon leaving the Black Muslim Movement we left all of our treasures behind in that Movement, thus we are very poor and everything we do we must do with almost nothing, and this makes it doubly hard . . ."

I began to wonder: What "treasures" was Malcolm talking about, anyway? Certainly he had not left a personal bankroll in the New York Mosque's treasury. What, then, did he imply by the usage "our treasures?" Did he mean the contributions he might have made while a member of the Nation of Islam (out of the very generous salary and expenses paid to him by the head of the movement — the

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Honorable Elijah Muhammad)? If yes, the former Muslim minister was being both naive and absurd to ask for a refund on voluntary contributions . . .

**WHY**—I further asked myself—had Malcolm seen fit to wait until January 11, 1965, when the letter (quoted above) was written, to claim whatever he might have left behind? For well over a year, Malcolm X had waged a relentless campaign of vilification and slander against

his own mentor and former teacher, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Why didn't he mention his claim earlier—while engaged in those ignoble endeavors?

The answer to these questions lay in the cold, simple fact: Malcolm X had left behind not treasures but trash—a whole mess of misstatements, false allegations, (against the Honorable Elijah Muhammad) and lies, lies and more lies . . .

**AFTER** listening to this writer for about an hour or so, everyone present at our little "summit" on the Nation of Islam concurred.

(To be continued)

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