

Minister Who Knew Him Best—Part I

Rips Malcolm's Treachery, Defection

*It is well known that all major prophets, including Jesus, Muhammad himself or Moses, were subjected during their times to defection and hypocracies among a few weak ones of their followers; defections which had no effect whatsoever on the course of the movements. In this light, the dropping out of ex-Minister Malcolm of New York from among the followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is of only passing interest. However, many Ministers of Mosques who have special insight into this matter have asked that they be allowed to reveal to our readers some of the facts behind this incident so that its lessons may be learned and some of the minor confusions resultings be clarified. In this perspective, we present the first of a three-part series written by Minister Lewis of Boston, Mass. * * **

By Minister Lewis

As Minister of Muhammad's Mosque of Islam in Boston, I was among those followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad who had, perhaps, the closest acquaintanceship and working relationship with ex-Minister Malcolm X of our New York Mosque. I knew, perhaps more than any, what the Messenger of Allah had done for this man, and I, too, was shocked by his almost unbelievable treachery and defection.

There are few spiritual leaders in the world who will do as much for his followers as will the Honorable Elijah Muhammad — and Malcolm had benefited and profited most from this generosity.

However, sometimes it takes a catastrophic event to reveal and expose the most hidden cupidity — and force the hypocrite to permatually lay bare his true nature.

such an event occurred around the assassination of President Kennedy, when the Messenger of Allah, in infinite wisdom and in tune with the main currents of the world, published MUHAMMAD SPEAKS with this headline: "Nation Still Mourns Death of our President" and instructed all of his followers, including Malcolm, neither to speak nor to



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about the assassinated President.

The outlook of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad on this matter was the same as that expressed by Muslim nations throughout Asia and Africa. Certainly the period of deference set aside by Mr. Muhammad was wise and dignified. There were people who hated President Kennedy enough to kill him, but also there were millions who loved him enough to kill FOR him.

This period of deference was observed scrupulously by all Muslim Ministers — with the exception of Minister Malcolm, who not only

instructions but spoke in such a manner as to bring discredit and needlessly endanger and expose our followers. Obviously, Malcolm was dedicated, not to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, but to himself.

This became obvious during his period of suspension, when, instead of maintaining a discreet silence, he began to fill the newspapers with stories to the effect that there was a "split" in the ranks of the Muslims, and that such information came from "inside sources." They did come from "inside sources" — from the typewriters of Minister Malcolm himself.

Various seeds were dropped by the newspapers to create a fire that Malcolm would pour gasoline on, and then he would report to Mr. Muhammad:

"If I were allowed to go out and speak, I could straighten them out on these rumors of a split in our ranks."

But the Messenger of Allah is a very wise man, and he searches not for the superficial but the truth. When Malcolm, who thought the door to the Nation of Islam would be flung open wide to let him proceed as usual, found that it was not quite so wide open, he took steps for which he obviously had

When I read his statements in the white newspapers concerning the reasons for his defection—filled with lies, slander and filth designed to cast aspersions upon Mr. Muhammad and his family—I asked myself, "would others analyze such statements in the light of truth?"

Malcolm's cry that he was "Pressured" out of the Nation of Islam is a false one. What kind of pressure could drive or force a man out of the Nation of Islam when he had preached that this was the salvation of himself and his people?

Only a few months ago, this same Malcolm was going up and down the nation — on television and radio — declaring that he considered himself the No. 1 follower of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. If that be so, should not a follower take an example from his teacher?

Who has been more of a target of envy and jealousy than the Honorable Elijah Muhammad since he was chosen Messenger to deliver Allah's messages to 20 million so-called Negroes? Yet — he did not allow himself to be pressured out of his post.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has been persecuted and opposed in every city in America—yet he was not "pressured" away from them.