

**ANSWERS TO COMMON  
QUESTIONS ON ISLAM**

**MALCOLM X**



## The Belief

“Before I get involved in any thing nowadays, I have to straighten out my own position, which is clear. I am not a racist in any form whatsoever. I don’t believe in any form of racism. I don’t believe in any form of discrimination or segregation. I believe in Islam (which literally means submission and surrender to the will of God Almighty). I am a Muslim (one who surrenders to the will of God). It just teaches us to believe in Allah as God.

(Malcolm X, just eight days before his assassination, Detroit).

God Almighty says in the Qur’an the final revealed guidance for the whole of mankind:

*“O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male (Adam) and a female (Eve) and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other, (not that you may despise each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).”* (Al-Qur’an 49:13)

## The Early Days

In 1925, Malcolm Little was born in Omaha, Nebraska, into a poverty stricken family. Although the brightest in his class of white children, he was told that a “nigger” could never be more than a carpenter. After moving to Boston, he began a notorious life of crime: dope pedlar, street hustler, bootlegger, pimp and armed robber. He was finally caught and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

## The Change

In the third year of his imprisonment, ‘Satan’ (as he was

nicknamed) underwent a tremendous upheaval and joined the Nation of Islam. In his own words:

“You know what my life had been. Picking a lock to rob someone’s house was the only way my knees had ever been bent before. I had to force myself to bend my knees. And waves of shame and embarrassment would force me back up. For evil to bend its knees, admitting its guilt, to implore the forgiveness of God, is the hardest thing in the world... Again, again, I would force myself back down into the praying toAllah posture.”

(Malcolm X: The Autobiography)

### **The Nation of Islam**

After prison, Malcolm became the main driving force behind the Nation of Islam, which he built into the most powerful black movement in America. He preached a message of hate and racism; the white men being devils, and the black men being gods.

Members of the Nation of Islam have never been considered Muslims by the Islamic World because they believe that: Allah came down to Earth as a man; Elijah Muhammad (their leader) is a sinless Prophet; and one race is superior to another. It was many years later that Malcolm realized this. Sex scandals surrounding Elijah Muhammad and his gross abuse of funds, drove the final nail home. He left the Nation of Islam in March 1964.

*“I totally reject Elijah Muhammad’s racist philosophy which he has labelled ‘Islam’ only to fool and misuse gullible people as he fooled and misused me..., (Islam) doesn’t use the colour*

*of a man's skin to measure him..., Islam judges a man by his intention, by his behaviour, by his deeds."*

(Malcolm X, New York Times & Audubon Ballroom)

### **The Hajj (Pilgrimage)**

In his subsequent search for truth, Malcolm developed an interest in true Islam which led him to make pilgrimage to Makkah (the Hajj). Makkah proved to be revelation for him, and a major turning point in his life. He officially adapted Islam and changed his name to Malik El-Shabazz. In his own words:

"You may be shocked by these words coming from me. But on this pilgrimage, what I have seen, and experienced, has forced me to re-arrange much of my thought patterns previously held, and to toss aside some of my previous conclusions... America needs to understand Islam, because this is the one religion that erases from its society the race problem... I have never before seen sincere and true brotherhood practised by all colours together, irrespective of their colour... 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."

(Malcolm X: TheAutobiography)

### **The Return**

After the Hajj, Malik ElShabazz toured several African states, before eventually coming back to America. Here, the radical change within him astonished the public. After consolidating the two organisations he had set up (Muslim Mosque, Inc. and the Organisation of Afro American Unity),

Malik ElShabazz proceeded upon a whirlwind tour of appearances up and down the country, motivated by his new found faith of Islam. *“And I know, too, that negroes would not rush to follow me into the orthodox Islam, which had given me the insight and perspective to see that black men and white men truly could be brothers. America’s negroes especially older negroes are too indelibly soaked in Christianity’s double standard of oppression... I said to Harlem street audiences that only when mankind would submit to One God, Who created all only then would mankind even approach the ‘peace of which so much talk could be heard... but towards which so little action was taken.”*

(Autobiography, a few weeks before his murder)

### **The Last Months**

*“Every morning I wake up, now, I regard it as having another borrowed day.”* (The Autobiography) Malik ElShabazz worked at a tremendous pace, often going without sleep and hardly seeing his family. He travelled abroad extensively, speaking in England, France, and many African states. He developed links with the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt, having several private meetings with their leadership in Cairo and Switzerland. By now he was well aware that his phone was tapped and his movements were carefully monitored. He was becoming too much of a threat, and he knew it.

### **The Assassination**

On 21st February 1965 at the Audubon Ballroom, Malik ElShabazz stood up and addressed a crowd. As he began with the traditional Muslim greeting “Asslam o alaikum brothers and sisters” three men stood up and pumped sixteen bullets



into his chest at close range. By the time Malik ElShabazz reached the hospital, he was dead.

Amongst his last words to his biographer were:

*“And if I can die 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 Allah. Only the mistakes have been mine.”* (TheAutobiography)

### **SOME PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM**

*Islam “Islam is a word which means, in Arabic, complete submission to the Will of God. Complete obedience to the Will of God.”*

(Malcolm X: Oct 11th 1963, California)

### **Oneness of God**

*“I’m a Muslim... I believe in God, the Supreme Being, the Creator of the Universe... I believe in One God, and I believe that God had One Religion, has One Religion, and always will have One Religion, and that God taught all of the Prophets the same Religion... They had One Doctrine.”*

(Malcolm X: Feb 16th, 1965, Rochester)

### **Prophethood**

God has continuously guided mankind by sending His messengers, the last of whom was Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them all) to whom was sent the Qur’an.

*“We believe that all of the Prophets who came forth on this Earth taught the same Religion. Abraham was a Muslim; Moses was a Muslim; Jesus was a Muslim. We accept the Religion of Islam*

*because we recognize it as the true Religion of God. This is why I am a Muslim."*

(Malcolm X: Oct 11th 1963, California)

## **Life After Death**

Everyone of us will die and be raised up again to account for our beliefs and actions. We will be judged accordingly with Heaven or Hell.

## **The Qur'an**

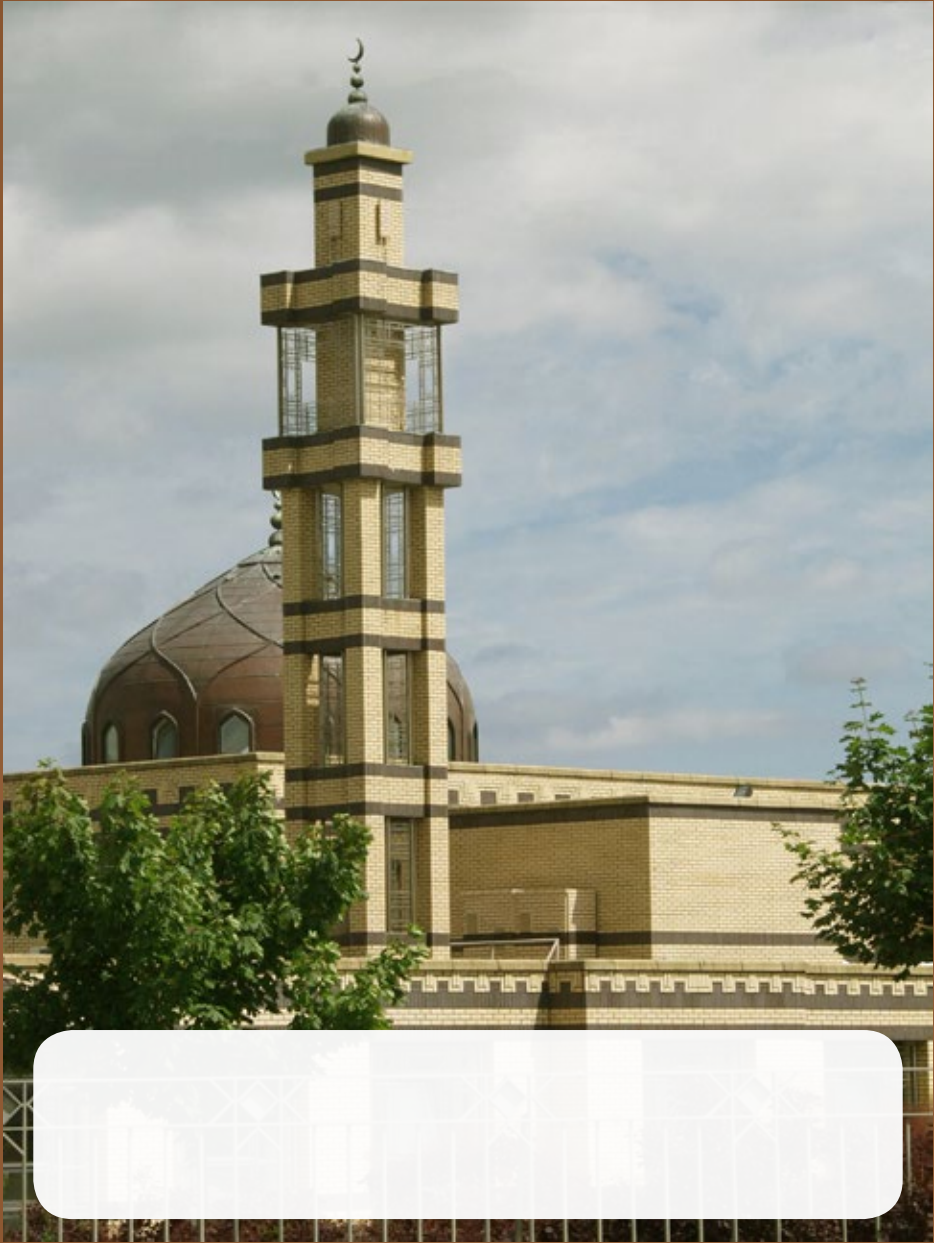
This is the Word of Allah(God),as revealed to Prophet Muhammad. It is the fundamental source of guidance for mankind. It has been perfectly preserved to this very day.

*"The Qur'an compels the Muslim World to take a stand on the side of those whose human rights are being violated. No matter what the religious persuasion of the victim is."*

(Malcolm X: Letter from Nigeria, 1964)

## **And Finally...**

Malik ElShabazz was a man true to himself. When he believed he did not believe half heartedly it was all or nothing. When he became a Muslim, all his energies were geared towards acting in that direction, in speaking out for Islam and against injustice. Malik ElShabazz has brought more Americans to Islam than any other man: he truly believed that "America needs Islam". So many people love and admire him, wanting to be like him, and aspiring to follow in his footsteps, yet they see what they want to see and ignore the rest. We must never forget it was Islam that made Malik ElShabazz what he was.



For any further queries, information and tours, please feel free to contact

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