

This week, we will look behind the lenses and screens to get to know Malcolm X and social media. We will study of the nature of the beasts and what makes them both promising and problematic.

Common Enemies

1. Why would George Lincoln Rockwell and his American Nazi Party support the Nation of Islam?

2. Why did the Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam contrast themselves with Martin Luther King, Jr.?

3. If you were a black American of the 1960s, would you follow Martin Luther King, Jr. or Malcolm X?

4. Would your answer to the preceding question change if you were a person of the opposite gender?

Ex-Malcolm

Reading the following excerpt from the seventeenth chapter of “The Autobiography of Malcolm X” by Alex Haley and Malcolm X. The chapter, entitled “Mecca,” chronicles Malcolm X’s pilgrimage (or Hajj) to the titular city in Islam, which every Muslim, if humanly possible, must fulfill at least once in their lifetime. The Holy Quran proclaims that “Pilgrimage to the Ka’ba is a duty men owe to God; those who are able to make the journey.” Malcolm X’s journey was metamorphic, as captured in the letter he penned after it.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Alex Haley and Malcolm X

I knew that when my letter became public knowledge back in America, many would be astounded-loved ones, friends, and enemies alike. And no less astounded would be millions whom I did not know-who had gained during my twelve years with Elijah Muhammad a "hate" image of Malcolm X.

Even I was myself astounded. But there was precedent in my life for this letter. My whole life had been a chronology of changes.

Here is what I wrote . . . from my heart:

"Never have I witnessed such sincere hospitality and the overwhelming spirit of true brotherhood as is practiced by people of all colors and races here in this Ancient Holy Land, the home of Abraham, Muhammad, and all the other prophets of the Holy Scriptures. For the past week, I have been utterly speechless and spellbound by the graciousness I see displayed all around me by people of all colors.

"I have been blessed to visit the Holy City of Mecca. I have made my seven circuits around the Ka'ba, led by a young Mutawaf named Muhammad. I drank water from the well of Zem Zem. 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 colors, from blue-eyed blonds 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 the non-white.

"America needs to understand Islam, because this is the one religion that erases from its society the race problem. 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 and true brotherhood practiced by all colors together, irrespective of their color.

"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. This was not too difficult for me. Despite my firm convictions, I have been always a man who tries to face facts, and to accept the reality of life as new experience and new knowledge unfolds it. 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 in the same bed (or 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 actions 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 color.

"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 wall 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 honored. 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. By this man, His Excellency Prince Faisal, who rules this Holy Land, was made aware of my presence here in Jedda. The very next morning, Prince Faisal's son, in person, informed me that by the will and decree of his esteemed father, I was to be a State Guest.

"The Deputy Chief of Protocol himself took me before the Hajj Court. His Holiness Sheikh Muhammad Harkon himself okayed my visit to Mecca. His Holiness gave me two books on Islam, with his personal seal and autograph, and he told me that he prayed that I would be a successful preacher of Islam in America. A car, a driver, and a guide, have been placed at my disposal, making it possible for me to travel about this Holy Land almost at will. The government provides air-conditioned quarters and servants in each city that I visit. Never would I have even thought of dreaming that I would ever be a recipient of such honors-honors that in America would be bestowed upon a King-not a Negro.

"All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all the Worlds.

"Sincerely,
"El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz
"(Malcolm X)"

Answer the following questions on the excerpt from Malcolm X's autobiography.

1. Why would the readers of Malcolm X's letter be astounded?

2. What caused Malcolm's change of heart?

3. Why does Malcolm assert that American must understand Islam?

4. How would Malcolm's beliefs change after his Hajj?

5. If you were a follower or critic of Malcolm X, how would you feel after reading this letter?

“He was revered. He was despised. Some saw him as a guardian of civil rights, a force of empowerment and self-respect for blacks in America. Others branded him a provocateur, a racial supremacist and a menace. His words, incisive and unforgiving had the capacity to unite - and divide. A split from the Nation of Islam eventually tempered his tone as seen by this appearance on CBC's Front Page Challenge. But on Feb. 21, 1965, some say it brought the man called Malcolm X to his untimely demise.”

Watch the video “1965: Malcolm X on Front Page Challenge (<https://bit.ly/2JYm7WW>) and answer the following questions on it:

1. How does Malcolm X respond to the accusation that he preaches “hate to meet hate”?

2. What is Malcolm X’s stance on violence?

3. What is Malcolm X’s answer to the question, “do you deny that there is a Christian God?”

4. According to Malcolm X, why is problem of the black man in America beyond America’s ability to solve?

5. What is the allure of Malcolm X?

The Dark Web

Create a “Fakebook” profile for one of the characters of *Dear Martin*.

fakebook.

Search for people, places and things

Home

Work:
Lives in:
From:

Activity
Recent

Status

What's on your mind?

fakebook

Search for people, places and things

Home

Basic Info:

Born:

Died:

Relationship Status:

Religious Views:

Political Views:

About Me:

History by Year:

Year:

Event:

Friends and Family:

Favorite Quotations:

Read the following excerpt from the BBC article “I lost my job over a Facebook post – was that fair?”

When Rachel Burns posted a photo of a singalong at work on her Facebook page, she had no idea that her actions would end her career. The BBC's Laurence Grissell has been following her story for the past year.

"I absolutely loved my job. It's my vocation, I love caring for people," Rachel says.

For 21 years, until December 2015, Rachel worked at Park Hall, a residential care home for elderly people and vulnerable adults in Reigate, southern England.

She'd started there as care assistant, and worked her way up. She'd been the manager for the last eight years.

"There were always activities going on. I wanted the clients to have a decent quality of life."

One of the activities that Rachel organised for the residents at Park Hall was a regular music night, every Friday.

"We'd put flowers on the tables," Rachel says. "The residents would all get dressed up and we'd have a different supper every week."

As a keen amateur singer, Rachel would perform at the music nights, everything from Roberta Flack and Nina Simone to Boney M.

"The staff would get up dancing with the residents. You'd see smiles on their faces - it really was such a lovely thing to see."

One Friday Rachel returned home after music night and decided to share some of the special moments from the evening online.

"I was quite elated at how the night had gone," Rachel says. "I posted the picture thinking that it would just be seen by a few people, mainly staff, on Facebook."

But two months later Rachel got a phone call summoning her to head office.

"As soon as I got there, when I saw their faces, I knew I was in big trouble."

Rachel had done four things wrong. She'd posted the photo on Facebook, she'd identified a Park Hall resident in the photo - a man with Down's syndrome who, eager to be photographed, had jumped into the shot beside her - she had also posted a video of the music night, and she was Facebook friends with a relative of one of the residents.

These were all breaches of Surrey County Council policy. Two days later Rachel was suspended from her job.

From the word go, Rachel held her hands up and admitted all the council's allegations but nonetheless wanted to appeal against their decision.

"I know I shouldn't have put that picture up there, but should I really have had my career of 21 years taken away for one mistake? I wanted justice because I didn't believe what they had done to me was fair."

Rachel lost her appeal and was given just two days to decide whether she would accept demotion - with a significant pay cut - or face dismissal. She asked for extra time to consider her options, but the council refused. Instead, Rachel, who by now had been signed off with stress and anxiety, received a telephone call demanding that she come to a decision immediately.

"I said, 'I'm off work sick, my doctor doesn't feel I can make such a life-changing decision at the moment.'"

But Rachel was told if she didn't accept the demotion she would be dismissed from her £45,000 a year job, with immediate effect.

"I got a letter the next day which said, 'I'm sorry you have decided to accept dismissal.' And that was it."

1. Was Rachel Burn's dismissal fair?

Yes	No

2. When would it be fair to dismiss someone for their social media posts?
