

Malcolm X

Malcolm X was a Muslim minister, human rights activist, and follower of the black community during the civil rights movement. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska on May 19, 1925. Malcolm believed that racial separation was the only way to help improve African Americans' lives in the U.S. He also believed Caucasians' controlled the U.S society entirely. Malcolm thought that fighting against whites was the only thing that could improve the status and respect of African Americans.

Malcolm's idea of racial separation was shaped by his earlier experiences in life and the Nation of Islam, but after he visited Mecca he realized whites and blacks can live together under Allah. Many people did not agree with the opinions of Malcolm X, but he stood strongly on his beliefs. He was a man who spoke with authority and led many African Americans to also fight for what they believed in by using any means necessary. He preached about human rights, freedom, action, and community building. Unfortunately, some thought Malcolm was becoming too powerful.

During the process of re-establishing himself, tension between Malcolm and the Nation of Islam began to fester. Eventually, rumors started circulating that Malcolm X had been targeted for assassination. There were multiple attempts on Malcolm's life and the lives of his family. One night a group of men firebombed his house to which no one was charged. A week later Malcolm was speaking on stage when a group of men rushed the stage and shot him at close range.

Malcolm X has influenced me to strive to reach a place in society where my voice can be heard. He has taught me the importance of being heard in a world where nobody seems to be listening. I understand that in order for our country to be successful, we cannot be divided by something as small as skin color. The world will not prosper if we do not work together to eliminate all forms discrimination. As a student attending a Historically Black College this fall, a personal goal of mine is to improve myself in order to better relations between citizens in this country.

Racism is still a prominent issue in the world that can be seen on both sides of the spectrum. Malcolm X largely contributed to the black nationalist ideology, which affects the black community even to this day. Although his belief of separation was changed after Malcolm visited Mecca, many black Americans still live on with the belief of separation between Caucasian and black Americans. In many cases the black community feels as though it does not belong because it is not viewed equally in America. Whether it is the way we are treated or the enslavement of our people for over 400 years, our treatment has never been equal.

As a young black man in this country, I have the impression that I am treated differently from people of other races. Many races face discrimination just because of the color of their skin. However, I believe blacks are marginalized by whites at rates far greater than other races living in this country. Due to the color of our skin, we have been improperly labeled by many. This is why Malcolm X took a stand for the rights of blacks. Where would the community be in today's world if Malcom X didn't struggle for our rights as African Americans? Things are still not great in 2021, because I still face obstacles just because I am black.