

Name _____

Date _____



Malcolm X

Malcolm Little, known as Malcolm X,

Born in 1925.

Father was a Baptist preacher, got killed,

Trying to stay alive.

His mother just couldn't recover, she really did love him,

But pain made her suffer.

Foster care wasn't fair,

But Malcolm was like no other.

Dropped out of school, teacher told him that he couldn't be a lawyer,

Became a hustler instead.

Got locked for 10 years,

Prison made him switch gears,

Learned from everything he read, made his own education,

Got introduced to the Nation of Islam

Stressed black pride, and then some,

1952—he got paroled,

Malcolm X is how he took control.

X represent his lost culture,

Slave name came from another color.

Changed names so he could be something,

So when he spoke out, it was all substance.

Fight back and never need nothing,

That's self-defense and self-reliance,

He saw the crisis, hopped in the fire.

The voice of the people,

Tryna' make us all equal,

What a charismatic speaker.

Spoke to the black folks
About independence,
Yeah, he made 'em all believers.
White folks in power,
They saw the threat,
Spoke his name with disrespect.
He's controversial and dangerous.
We can't handle that,
We can't handle that.

Black pride,
I need peace with my freedom.
Black pride,
He fought for the people.
That man ain't dangerous,
Nah, we ain't dangerous.
We self-reliant, and we proud of our heritage.
(x2)

Black pride, black pride, black pride, black pride...

Same time, Martin Luther King Jr. made his rise,
Preaching tolerance, non-violence, integration, civil rights.
See, Malcolm X had a different message, two leaders at odds,
No disrespect, just perspective, both protecting future lives.
X sought separation, like the Nation of Islam,
He thought we should fight by any means, our enemies bear arms.
'Til the '60s when he had a change of heart,
Took a pilgrimage to Mecca, all the races that he saw,
So he changed his name again to el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz.
Came back home with better teachings of Islam,
He met Dr. King, realized King's dreams were like his own.

Both leaders same struggle, they was both brought to a fall.

1965—Malcolm X lost his life.

Three men gunned him down.

He was only 39.

His legacy he left alive,

All of his lessons survived.

Autobiography,

His independence of mind

Kept all our visions in line, that's...

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