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All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of All the Worlds. Of the countless blessing in my life, Allah has given me the opportunity to journey through the world of an extraordinary man who has been the inspiration and joy throughout the last 4 years of my existence. I currently claim to have two men in my life, Tayshaun Prince and Malcolm X, though I am unwilling to share the first, I am learning how to honorably share the second.

Last week I was talking to a friend and he described his "pleasurable" weekend with liquor and girls. Normally I would have said, "Ok that's cool." But I gave him a look and my boy knew I was hiding something. For the first time **he forced me** to sit down and say what was on my mind. So I did and for about two hours I shut him up pretty good. At one point he said, "Dang Sheem you sound just like Malcolm." And that's when I knew I had it.

Yea so what? I got my preach on but he'll probably go back to that bottle of Hennessy in his South Quad mini-fridge; this, however, is not my concern. As Muslims we are obligated to *tell* others about Islam, not convert them. Allah guides whomever He wills and it took me a long time to realize this. I know it's easier said than done but I have learned, through Malcolm, not to be shy about what I have been blessed with. I believe, unfortunately, that Malcolm is one of the most underrated **figures in our community**. I urge every Muslim in America, especially young adult like ourselves, to get out of the ethnic bubbles passed down from our parents and educate ourselves about the history of oppression within the African American community. Pick up the Autobiography of Malcolm X and read it at least twice (it's so much different the second time), if you can't get through the first 3 chapters, you're missing the point and I'll gladly come pop **your** ignorant bubble.

As I prepare to give a presentation about Islam in Black America for an audience featuring Braylon Edwards, Daniel Horton and other UM big ballas, I pray Allah **gives** me the strength and charisma of Malcolm, the smooth style of my bu Tayshaun, and most importantly the patience and flawlessness of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

"Malcolm was our manhood, our living, black manhood...And, in honoring him, we honor the best in ourselves..." – Ossie Davis.

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