

THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

NAME: _____ GROUP: _____

TEACHER'S NAME: _____ DATE: ____/____/____

READING

Read part of a letter written by Malcolm X in 1964 in Mecca, during his pilgrimage through the Muslim world. Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences (A – G) the ones which best fit each gap. There is one extra sentence you do not need to use.

Never have I witnessed such sincere hospitality and 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. (1.) _____

I have been blessed to visit the Holy City of Mecca. There were tens of thousands of pilgrims, from all over the world. (2.) _____ 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 non-white.

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. (3.) _____ 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. (4.) _____

(5.) _____ 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 walls 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? (6.) _____ 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-Rajj Malik El-Shabazz
(Malcolm X)

- A.** I have prayed in the ancient city of Mina, and I have prayed on Mount Arafat.
- B.** Despite my firm convictions, I have always been a man who tries to face facts, and to accept the reality of life as new experience and new knowledge unfolds.
- C.** They were of all colors, from blue-eyed blonds to black-skinned Africans.
- D.** I felt in their words and actions the same sincerity that I felt among the black African Muslims of Nigeria, Sudan, and Ghana.
- E.** 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.
- F.** 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.
- G.** Each hour here in the Holy Land enables me to have greater spiritual insights into what is happening in America between black and white.

USE OF ENGLISH

Choose the best word to complete each statement.

1. The fear of terrorism is very real and understandable. _____, it is just as hideous to blame each and every Muslim for it.
a. However
b. In spite of
c. Even though
2. _____ the works of Gandhi inspired Martin Luther King Jr. to follow a non-violent path.
a. Read
b. Reading
c. Study
3. Ironically, Rosa Parks took a stand against segregation by _____.
a. the Montgomery Bus Boycott
b. stand trial
c. sitting down
4. The due date for our assignment is tomorrow and I haven't _____ anything yet.
a. come across
b. come up with
c. come down with
5. _____ their differences, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X fought for the same thing.
a. In spite of
b. Although
c. However
6. A teacher once told me: "Challenge your _____ or they will challenge you."
a. racism
b. civil rights
c. preconceptions

