

MALCOLM X

By Gwen Walker
Malcolm X admired for his honesty and fiery personality, was born Malcolm Little, on May 19, 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska. He was the fourth of eight children of Earl and Louise Little. His father was a Baptist preacher who believed in the secular teachings of the Nationalist Marcus Garvey. His mother was

a mulatto born on the island of Grenada in the West Indies. White vigilantes ran the Littles out of Nebraska, and they settled in Lansing, Michigan. Klansmen burned the Little's home and Mr. Little was beaten to death and left under the wheels of a street-car. Because of this, at the age of six, Malcolm began to hate all whites.

At the age of fourteen, Malcolm dropped out of school, ran away to Boston, then to New York. The family had been separated when they moved to Detroit which caused Malcolm to be placed in the foster care of a white couple. Before he had his twenty first birthday, he was sentenced to serve eight to ten years for burglary. While in prison, Malcolm educated himself. There he learned of the Muslim movement and the teachings of Elijah Muhammad. He got out of prison in 1952, and became an outstanding minister in the Nation of Islam.

out on his own and formed the Organization of Afro-American Unity teaching that Blacks could be independent. In 1964 Malcolm made a pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia and also journeyed throughout Africa. These trips changed him totally and he renounced the teachings of Elijah Muhammad. During a speech in New York City, on February 21, 1965 Malcolm was assassinated. Before Malcolm died he had overcome his hatred of whites and believed that the races could work together to build a Democratic Society.

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