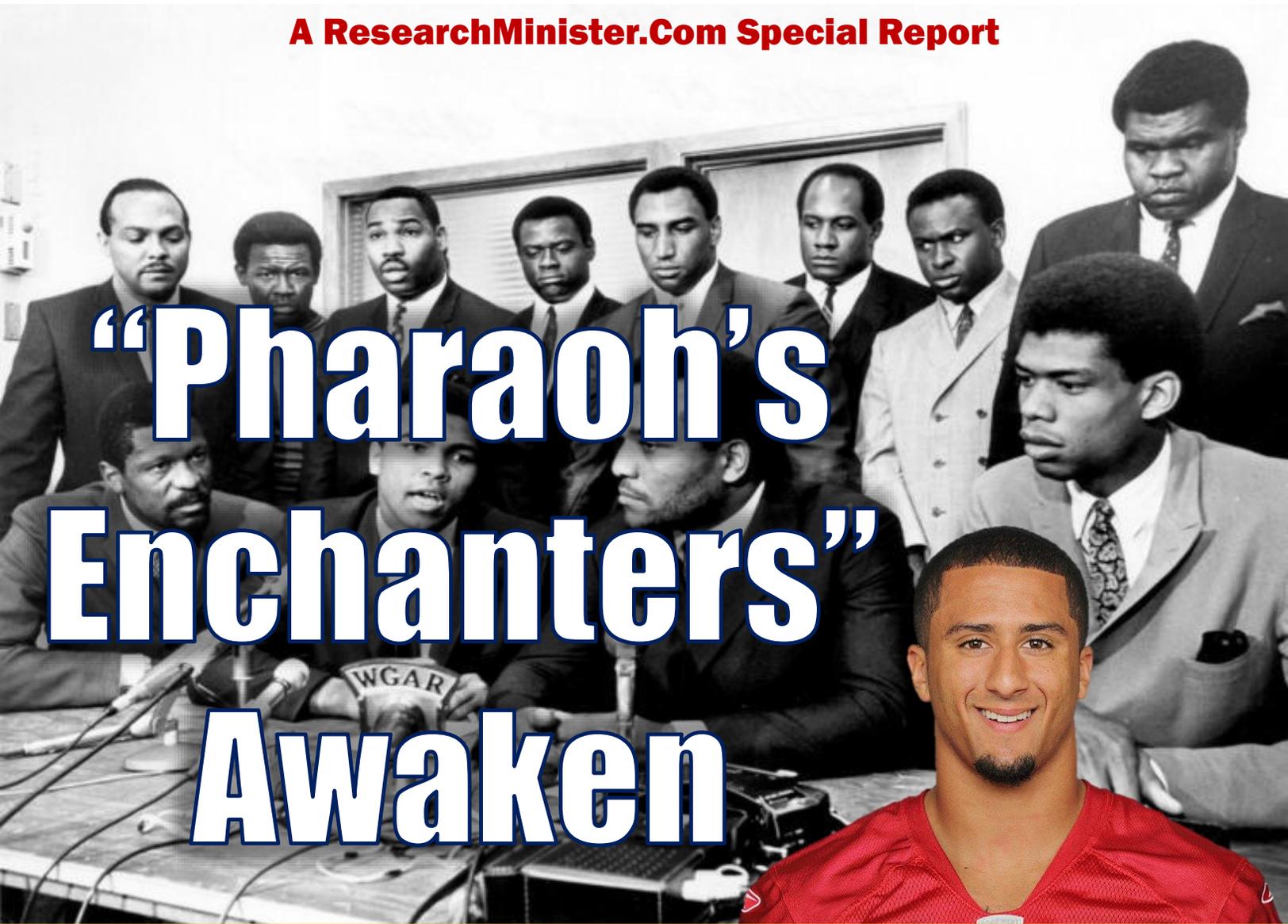


“Pharaoh’s Enchanters” Awaken



Colin Kaepernick and The Rise of Black Entertainers for Liberation



“Pharaoh’s Enchanters Awaken”: Colin Kaepernick and the Rise of Black Entertainers for Liberation

By Brother Student Minister Demetric Muhammad

Contents

Black Liberation Theology	2
Kaepernick versus Francis Scott Key, Slaver	4
Black Athletes and Entertainers/Modern Enchanters of Modern Pharaoh	5
Pharaoh’s Retaliation.....	7
Modern Enchanters Awaken.....	8
Awakened Enchanters Speak.....	14
Defiance!: The Spirit of Farrakhan Affects Athletes and Entertainers.....	17
Recommendations: “Break The Wealth of Pharaoh”	20



Colin Kaepernick’s refusal to stand for the National Anthem and raising of the American flag has brought back memories from my youth. In the early 90’s I was in the 9th grade growing up in the Mississippi Delta. My 9th grade year was my year of awakening to issues of social justice, Black history and Islam. And each morning at our school there was the recital of the pledge

of allegiance over the PA system at our school. All students were expected to stand and recite the pledge. One morning I had determined that I would no longer stand to honor what I had learned was a pledge devoted to a society and history that involved the enslavement of my ancestors. I remember that day that very well. I wore a blue sweatshirt that had an iconic image of Malcolm X on the front of it; Brother Malcolm was looking out of a window holding a shotgun. The caption across the image of Brother Malcolm on my sweatshirt read “*By any means necessary.*” I refused to stand for the pledge that day and as a result my teacher Ms. Dickes was furious. She assigned me detention for refusing to stand for the pledge of allegiance. To make problems worse, I lamented and sought sympathy from my girlfriend. Yet from her, I received no sympathy and understanding. She felt that I was wrong for not standing to honor and recite the pledge of allegiance. That was the last day we were a couple. Our “*teenage love*” had come to an end-not over unfaithfulness or any petty squabbles, but over my chosen set of principles that I had determined to use as a foundation for my future. This was my early experience at my own attempt to live for a higher purpose; to live

for my beliefs; to be willing to sacrifice for what I thought was right. So from my own personal past, I immediately felt a kinship with Brother Colin Kaepernick's courageous stance. I had only lost an hour of time serving after school detention and my high school sweetheart; Brother Colin could potentially lose tens of millions of dollars in income and endorsement earnings.

I am currently a student of the ministry of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan and as such I always seek to understand the world around me through the lens of the word of Allah (God). This involves careful consideration of what has been written on the pages of the Bible (Old and New Testaments), the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad. In addition to this, I must add the voluminous works of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. I seek all of these sources to help me form an enlightened opinion and gain a command of the issues of the day with an analysis shaped by the highest most authoritative sources.

I think most of us in the Black community draw from our spiritual traditions and sacred texts to orientate ourselves in an ever evolving and rapidly changing world. Actually the religious traditions of Black people in America emerged and function out of a definite context of struggle and resistance to oppression. Our faith has been formed in the furnace of affliction. Our belief was given birth to in America-the bastion of white supremacy, the archetype nation of colonialism and imperialism and the master of the "peculiarly" horrific institution of slavery.

The dominant spiritual traditions within the Black community inside America have been Christianity and Islam. And the unique thing about Black people's experience and approach to the practice of these 2 great faiths is that unlike the European experience there has not been anything like the "Crusades" where bloodshed, violence and widespread hostility has existed between Black Christians and Black Muslims.

Black Liberation Theology

The reason this is the case is because of how both "Black Islam" and "Black Christianity" have a common root and function as being both spiritual and literal paths to the liberation of the enslaved Black Africans who were stolen out of Africa to be made slaves in America and Europe. In other words, "Black Islam" and "Black Christianity" coalesce, harmonize and sync with one another around what scholars have termed **Liberation Theology**.



Perhaps this might be difficult to see based on common trends in this the "post-integration" period of Black church history. For sure, the prosperity gospel phenomenon, which has been criticized for its departure from the "social gospel" and **Black Liberation Theology** tradition, is the modern Black church's most popular trend. But we need look no further than the bold and timeless writings of the **Bishop Henry McNeal Turner** to see the harmony amidst "Black Islam" and "Black Christianity". In one of my favorite writings from Bishop Turner entitled **God Is A Negro** he declares

*"We have as much right biblically and otherwise to believe that God is a Negro, as you buckra, or white people have to believe that God' is a fine looking, symmetrical and ornamented white man. For the bulk of you, and' all the fool Negroes of the country, believe that God is white- skinned, blue-eyed, straight-haired, projecting-nosed compressed-lipped and finely-robed white gentleman sitting upon a throne somewhere in the heavens. We certainly protest against God being a white man or against God being white at all; abstract as this theme must forever remain while we are in the flesh. This is one of the reasons we favor African emigration, or Negro nationalization, wherever we can find a domain, **for as long as we remain among whites, the Negro will believe that the devil is black and that he (the Negro) favors the devil, and that God is white and the (the Negro) bears no resemblance to Him,** and the effect of such a sentiment is contemptuous and degrading, and one-half of the Negro race will be trying to get white and the other half will spend their days trying to be white men's scullions in order to please the whites; and the time they should be giving to the study of such things will dignify and make our race great will be devoted to studying about how unfortunate they are in not being white."*



Bishop Turner's teaching on a God who looks like Black people agrees with the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad's teachings about the Blackness of God. In his book *our Saviour Has Arrived*, the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad writes **"I say, love your God. He is a Black God and He is forever and forever."**

Bishop Turner and Messenger Muhammad's powerful words, written in 1898 and 1973 respectively, could easily have been written in 2016 due to the need for such a clear, focused and factually accurate theology in today's turbulent environment where Blacks daily experience some of the worst kinds of injustices that are no doubt rooted in a false belief in a **white God** and a **Black devil**.

The harmony between Liberation Theology Islam and Christianity can also be seen in their critical views and disdain for the American flag. Again we are compelled to cite the bold ministry of Bishop

Turner who wrote in 1898,

"I used to love what I thought was the grand old flag, and sing with ecstasy about the stars and stripes, but to the Negro in this country the American flag is a dirty and contemptible rag."

His views agree with those of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad who wrote in his book *Message to the Blackman*.

"I have heard it said that we teach that under the flag of America we receive suffering, slavery and finally death. Why, this is true as the existence of the American flag on our part, according to their own history written concerning our welfare under their flag. Today, the government is trying to force the recognition of the so-called Negroes equally with the true white citizens of America. This the South objects to, which makes it again abundantly true that the poor once

slaves have actually suffered slavery and death under the stars and stripes of America and numerous other cruelties and death which hardly be put into writing."

Kaepernick versus Francis Scott Key, Slaver

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's recent protest against police brutality in the Black community involved him refusing to give the American flag and National Anthem (The Star Spangled Banner) the honor that is customarily afforded these 2 national emblems before sporting events. He remained seated while everyone else stood. His explanation for his sitting as reported in the press was that: *"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."*

Kaepernick's bold stance ties him to this tradition of **Black Liberation Theology**. Like Messenger Muhammad and Bishop Turner, he has rightly found the hypocrisy in honoring the national emblems of a nation whose practice of injustice dishonors the people that make up the nation.

In the immediate aftermath of Kaepernick's display of courage, the **Nation of Islam Research Group**



(noirg.org) published the dubious and criminal history of Francis Scott Key—the author of the America's national anthem—"The Star Spangled Banner."

"Francis Scott Key (1779–1843) is best known as the author of the Star Spangled Banner, the national anthem of the United States, which concludes with the lyric, "O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave." But the Key family

derived their entire sustenance from the two dozen Africans who worked without compensation on the Key plantation in Maryland. As a result of their captives' suffering, the Keys were able to finance higher education for their own children, including law school for Francis. Francis Scott Key bought his first human being in about 1800, and by 1820 he had six, by 1840 he had eight....

As a lawyer Key... caused a grand jury to indict the editor and the printer of an anti-slavery publication. In 1836, Key indicted a man for having a trunk full of anti-slavery pamphlets. He called it "seditious libel" that encouraged slave rebellion. Key, in his final address to the jury, said:

"Are you willing, gentlemen, to abandon your country, to permit it to be taken from you, and occupied by the abolitionist, according to whose taste it is to associate and amalgamate with the negro? Or, gentlemen, on the other hand, are there laws in this community to defend you from the immediate abolitionist, who would open upon you the floodgates of such extensive wickedness and mischief?"

Colin Kaepernick has through one single act forced the American public to confront the one subject that it is known for ignoring, forgetting and sweeping under the rug as a grand gesture of denial. The

“peculiarly” horrific institution of slavery and its interwoven presence throughout America’s institutions and symbols of patriotism can no longer be ignored.

The third stanza of the National Anthem, penned by Key, is rarely sung. But it contains references to the military defeat of slaves who fought on the side of the British during the War of 1812 for the promise of freedom from captivity. Stanza 3 says:



*And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a Country should leave us no more?*

Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.

No refuge could save the hireling and slave

From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,

And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Author John Schwartz of internet website ***The Intercept***
([https://theintercept.com/2016/08/28/colin-](https://theintercept.com/2016/08/28/colin-kaepernick-is-righter-than-you-know-the-national-anthem-is-a-celebration-of-slavery/)

[kaepernick-is-righter-than-you-know-the-national-anthem-is-a-celebration-of-slavery/](https://theintercept.com/2016/08/28/colin-kaepernick-is-righter-than-you-know-the-national-anthem-is-a-celebration-of-slavery/)) writes an excellent article describing the context of Key’s lyrics for the often omitted third stanza. As it relates to Key’s joy in America’s triumph over the British at Fort McHenry and her Black regiment of soldiers Schwartz writes:

*“Almost no one seems to be aware that even if the U.S. were a perfect country today, it would be bizarre to expect African-American players to stand for “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Why? Because **it literally celebrates the murder of African-Americans....**The reality is that there were human beings fighting for freedom with incredible bravery during the War of 1812. However, “The Star-Spangled Banner” glorifies America’s “triumph” over them — and then turns that reality completely upside down, **transforming their killers into the courageous freedom fighters.**”*

[Black Athletes and Entertainers/Modern Enchanters of Modern Pharaoh](#)

Kaepernick and all of the spectacularly talented Black athletes who play football, basketball, baseball, tennis, gymnastics, swimming, track and field all might be looked at through the lens of scripture in terms of their role, function and value to the American society. Their intended function as many have observed is to provide, through sport and play, a mental escape from the real life day to day personal and national problems of the people within the society. We all have had a rough day on the job and looked forward to getting home to relax, forget our worries and just sit and watch the game. There in front of our television, computer or mobile device we sit ***enchanted and pacified*** by these magnificent athletes and their sporting achievements.

In both the Bible and the Holy Qur'an we read of how Pharaoh-the leader of oppression and slavery-had in his employ magicians and enchanters. The English translation of the Holy Qur'an in the 7th Surah discusses Pharaoh's enchanters and their relationship with Moses and his God. In Surah 7 ayat 120 the English word "enchanter" is translated from the Arabic word "saharatun." This Qur'anic Arabic word "saharatun" derives from a root word "sahara" which means to **"to enchant, to fascinate, to seduce, etc."**

This enchanting, magical and seductive force for Pharaoh that is written of in both Bible and Holy Qur'an ultimately became a problem for Pharaoh when they witnessed Moses God make powerful demonstrations. Pharaoh's enchanters had an experience that is the subject of the following dialogue recorded in the Holy Qur'an 7:121-124:



"And the enchanters fell down prostrate they said: We believe in the Lord of the worlds, The Lord of Moses and Aaron. Pharaoh said: You believe in Him before I give you permission! Surely this is a plot which you have plotted in the city, to turn out of it its people, but you shall know! I shall certainly cut off your hands and your feet on opposites sides, then I shall crucify you all together!"

Pharaoh's enchanters who are described in the Holy Qur'an as performing a "mighty enchantment" to "overawe" the people are analogous to Colin Kaepernick and the scores of Black athletes and entertainers whose talent is managed and in many cases owned completely by powerful and wealthy white men-those whom from a Black Liberation Theology perspective, make up the oppressive ruling class of modern Pharaohs and Egyptians.

The English word "enchant" is a perfect description for the impact of Black athletes and entertainers on their fans and admirers. According to Webster's Dictionary the word "enchant" means **to fascinate, attract; captivate, enrapture.**

But what happens when these persons who have been cultivated and developed to "enchant" the mentally enslaved masses, awakens to the truth of the unjust conditions under which the masses live?

Again, it is a shame that more folks today don't look at the condition of Black people in America as being a paralleled reality to what is described in the Bible and Holy Qur'an regarding the plight, suffering and sojourn of the Children of Israel. Our enslaved ancestors sure did. Professor Albert J. Raboteau records in his book **Slave Religion** that,

"There is no part of the Bible with which they (slaves) are so familiar as the story of the deliverance of the children of Israel. Moses is their ideal of all that is high, and noble, and perfect, in man. I think they

have been accustomed to regard Christ not so much in the light of a spiritual Deliverer, as that of a second Moses who would eventually lead them out of their prison-house of bondage."

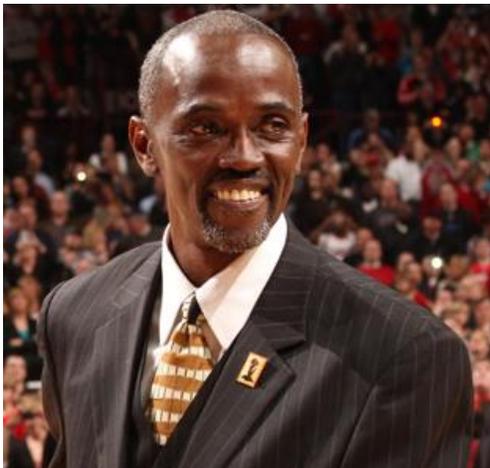
Pharaoh's Retaliation

The ugly vitriolic backlash from various sectors of the American public against Kaepernick's bold stance makes us to remember Pharaoh's threat against his enchanters and entertainers when they broke allegiance to him and his philosophy and joined onto believe in Moses' Liberation Theology.

As we have already discussed, Kaepernick's condemnation of America's national emblems brings him into the sphere of Black Liberation Theology thought and belief. Such beliefs that extend all the way back to our enslaved fore-parents on plantations has always been the antithesis to other "Pharaoh-approved" philosophies and strategies for Blacks in America. Two of the most popular of these dead-end, no-win approaches to solving the problems of Black people include integration, and non-economic liberalism.

Pharaoh promised to the awakened enchanters that he would retaliate against them:

"I shall certainly cut off your hands and your feet on opposites sides, then I shall crucify you all together!"



Kaepernick anticipated retaliation in the form of loss of income-the modern equivalent of having his hands and feet cut off- from the NFL and endorsements stated:

*"This is not something that I am going to run by anybody. I am not looking for approval. I have to stand up for people that are oppressed. ... **If they take football away, my endorsements from me, I know that I stood up for what is right.**"*

Perhaps he was reminded of the bold stances of former greats like Muhammad Ali, Paul Robeson, Tommy Smith and John Carlos and how they faced various forms of retaliation from both within and outside the world of professional sports.

In the not too distant past, Kaepernick might have reflected upon the career of Chicago Bulls 3-point champion Craig Hodges. Hodges was essentially Blackballed from the NBA for his pro-Black stances and for attending a White House reception in 1992 wearing a dashiki. After the Bulls 2nd consecutive championship President Bush hosted their team at the White House and a dashiki clad Hodges presented a letter to the President asking him to do more in his administration to help the Black community. After the White House incident Hodges was not re-signed by the Bulls and no other team would even express an interest in him. His professional basketball career was over after being one of the most feared 3-point threats in the entire NBA and helping his team to win its 2nd consecutive championship.

Pharaoh had cut off his *"hands and feet on opposite sides."*

Perhaps Kaepernick's expectation that he will experience a form of economic retaliation and career sabotage grows out of his knowledge of what happened to former NBA star Mahmoud Abdul Rauf (aka Chris Jackson) when he refused to stand for the national anthem in 1996.

In a 2010 interview with Jorge Sierra posted on HoopsHype.com, Rauf revealed

"After the national anthem fiasco, nobody really wanted to touch me. I could not even get an invitation to go try out with a team."

Rauf in this intriguing interview also discussed how his increasing self-study and reading of books to enlighten himself on current events and social justice issues forced him to draw the kinds of conclusions he did during his "pre-Kaepernick" stance against the flag:

"It came through my reading. I began to read more, I began to think about issues more. And the more I read and the more I thought, I said... What am I doing this? I don't want to be like some type of robot, just doing things because other people are doing it. I began to question, why am I doing what I do? Do I believe that this is the right thing to do? So I came to this decision. I said, "No." There were a lot of things that I disagree with and if I'm going to be true to myself, I have to begin to act like it and not just talk about it. That's what brought me to that point of not standing."

Modern Enchanters Awaken

When athletes begin to seek enlightenment and when they begin to read and study books other than their "playbook" they are actually engaged in the revolutionary act of mental resurrection. This as we see in the case of Mahmoud Abdul Rauf and Craig Hodges causes the league to retaliate against them. Rauf's experience in gaining and increased awareness or consciousness leading to a definitive stance against America's pro-slavery emblems reminds me of what has taken place in more recent times with Rashard Mendenhall. Mendenhall in an interview with Yahoo Sports on April 7, 2016 (**published here:** <http://sports.yahoo.com/news/rashard-mendenhall-nfl-team-worried-111600732.html>) said:



"When I was going through the NFL Combine there was a team that asked me, 'If you have all these other interests — like reading, dancing or art — what makes you a football player?' I would tweet a picture of a book that I was reading and there would be people who would write, like, 'Why are you reading books? You should be reading a playbook.'... As much as they say, 'We don't want a guy who's in trouble, blah, blah, blah,' that guy is familiar to them; He is comfortable to them because they understand him better than a football player who has different interests. A guy with an expanded worldview, now that's fearful."

Mendenhall, Rauf, Kaepernick and many other players are awakening to the role of the professional athlete as an entertainer -one who in the modern times has a role of enchanting the masses with spell-binding feats of athleticism and physical prowess on the football field, basketball court and in

all sports arenas. Sports today has a role in the overall control of the society. It is a part of an overall popular culture strategy to dumb down the public for control purposes.



That sports and popular culture owners have a colonialist, imperialist Pharaoh kind of attitude and approach to the total control of the thinking of the public is borne witness to in the analysis of Professor Robert McChesney in an interview for the **Frontline** Documentary "**The Merchants of Cool.**" According to Professor McChesney:

*"Teens are like Africa. There's this range that they're going to take over, and **their weaponry is films, music, books, CDs, internet access, clothing, amusement parks, sports teams.** That's all this weaponry they have to make money off of this market, to **colonize** this market."*

Courageous Celebrities Take to Twitter & Register Their Anger and Condemnation of the Murder of Philando Castille and Alton Sterling by Police



Angry tweets, marching, protesting, none of that shit works. We have to speak economically. We generate BILLIONS, and retain none of it.

1:03 AM - 6 Jul 2016

138 180

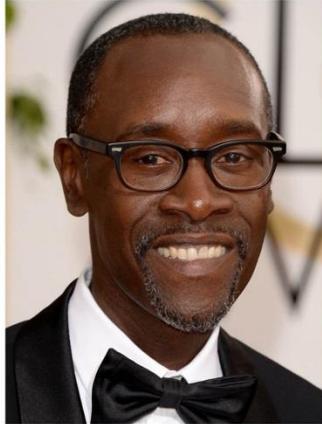


How many more times must this happen for us to matter? How many more must we lose?

BLACK. LIVES. MATTER. #AltonSterling

11:39 PM - 5 Jul 2016

42,453 47,831



 **Don Cheadle** 
@DonCheadle

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#AltonSterling Kill, Rinse, Repeat ...

11:55 AM - 6 Jul 2016

  1,125  1,343



 **Audra McDonald** 
@AudraEqualityMc

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#AltonSterling #SandraBland #TamirRice #MikeBrown
#EricGarner...The list goes on & on like a never ending quilt of
tears & rage.

8:38 AM - 6 Jul 2016

  795  1,030



 **Samira Wiley** 
@samirawiley

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#AltonSterling. Say his name.

1:38 AM - 6 Jul 2016

  8,081  7,524



 **MC HAMMER** 
@MCHammer

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This barbaric behavior under the guise of law is despicable, inhumane and heartbreaking. Justice for #AltonSterling
[twitter.com/todaysloop/sta...](https://twitter.com/todaysloop/status/7141111111)

12:58 AM - 6 Jul 2016

  414  526



 **Sherri Shepherd** 
@SherriEShepherd

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Just watched police officers kill [#AltonSterling](#) in cold blood. My heart hurts. I am sick. My black son lays sleeping -his future? [#Jesus](#)

12:08 AM - 6 Jul 2016

  146  315



 **DL Hughley** 
@RealDLHughley

 Follow

You ever notice how video used against suspects tells the whole story, but used against cops it doesn't [#AltonSterling](#) [#TeamDI](#)

6:32 AM - 6 Jul 2016

  859  994

Awakened Enchanters Speak

Curt Flood

"a well-paid slave is, nonetheless, a slave"

Jackie Robinson

"I cannot stand and sing the anthem. I cannot salute the flag; I know that I am a black man in a white world."

Rashard Mendenhall

"Anyone with knowledge of the slave trade and the NFL could say that these two parallel each other."

*Once, the Steelers wanted him to answer several personal questions for a video feature. When they asked for a favorite book, Mendenhall offered *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. Eyebrows raised. "They were like, 'Yeah, we can't put that. Do you have another one?' " Mendenhall says. "I could have said *Quiet Strength* by Tony Dungy, and it would have been acceptable. But I'm like, 'You walked up to me, asked me my favorite book, and it wasn't OK?' "*

Anthony Prior

"Black players have created a billion-dollar market but have no voice in the industry, no power. That sounds an awful lot like slavery to me. On plantations slaves were respected for their physical skills but were given no respect as thinking beings. On the football field, we are treated as what appears like gods, but in fact this is just the 'show and tell' of the management for their spectators. In reality, what is transpiring is that black athletes are being treated with disrespect and degradation. As soon as we take off that uniform, behind the dressing room doors, we are less than human. We are bought and sold. Traded and drafted, like our ancestors, and the public views this as a sport, ironically the same attitude as people had in the slavery era."

Adrian Peterson

"It's[NFL] modern-day slavery, you know?"

Carmelo Anthony

"First off let me start off by saying " All Praise Due To The Most High." Secondly, I'm all about rallying, protesting, fighting for OUR people. Look I'll even lead the charge, By Any Means Necessary. We have to be smart about what we are doing though. We need to steer our anger in the right direction. The system is Broken. Point blank period. It has been this way forever. Martin Luther King marched. Malcolm X rebelled. Muhammad Ali literally fought for US. Our anger should be towards the system. If the system doesn't change we will continue to turn on the TVs and see the same thing. We have to put the pressure on the people in charge in order to get this thing we call JUSTICE right. A march doesn't work. We tried that. I've tried that. A couple social media post/tweet doesn't work. We've all tried that. That didn't work. Shooting 11 cops and killing 5 WILL NOT work. While I don't have a solution, and I'm pretty sure a lot of people don't have a solution, we need to come together more than anything at this time. We need

each other. These politicians have to step up and fight for change. I'm calling for all my fellow ATHLETES to step up and take charge. Go to your local officials, leaders, congressman, assemblymen/assemblywoman and demand change. There's NO more sitting back and being afraid of tackling and addressing political issues anymore. Those days are long gone. We have to step up and take charge. We can't worry about what endorsements we gonna lose or whose going to look at us crazy. I need your voices to be heard. We can demand change. We just have to be willing to. THE TIME IS NOW. IM all in. Take Charge. Take Action. DEMAND CHANGE. Peace7"

Beyonce

"We are sick and tired of the killings of young men and women in our communities... this is a human fight. No matter your race, gender or sexual orientation. This is a fight for anyone who feels marginalized, who is struggling for freedom and human rights."

Larry Johnson

Black people your Focusing on the wrong thing. We should be focusing on having our own, Own team own League! Go For Self!!

Janelle Monae

"Although I am a black young woman I AM #AltonSterling. Just like Alton I used to sell my CDs outside records, library steps, street corners, etc. My first cousin's name is Alton. What happened to Alton just reiterates that WE are not truly free. WE are not safe. WE need protection from hunters who hide behind badges. And until every human being, no matter what race you are, realizes this is also your problem and also your job to protect US from murderers like these officers we will never be free. We will always look at you like the enemy. What happened to Alton happens over and over again around this country. We are tired. Tired of IG ING, tweeting, FBooking "RIP" and posting videos of MURDER and shit not change. What these murderers in uniform did should warrant immediate arrest. It's clear what happened. This man could not even reach a gun if there was one. Video shows that. Someone screams "he has a gun!" and so u kill him? He resisted arrest so that means shoot to KILL HIM?! And you shoot him while he is on the ground 5TIMES?! Any excuse one gives to these cowards with badges will continue to play a part in our extinction. Blood on your hands as well. My heart is mad, heavy, and cries for his family and loved ones . I'm so fucking irate right now but clear minded and moved enough to continue to speak out and help this man and many others seek Justice."

Jesse Williams:

"Millions of you smile in awe of our music, comedy, inventions, athletics, fashion, etc. but when we're not entertaining you, you hate us?"

"[what] we've been doing is looking at the data and we know that police somehow manage to de-escalate, disarm and not kill white people every day. So what's going to happen is we are going to have equal rights and justice in our own country or we will restructure their function and ours."

Meek Mills

"Just imagine what the police report said before they knew This was recorded... What a coincidence they saying the body cams did not work, it's sad! I was found guilty of pointing a gun at the 2 strike force officers in the middle of a full blown raid.... They came at least 7 cops at one time and not a single shot fired! This was b4 cameras was available... I take these situations serious when I see so many of my people losing their lives and freedom to the people they say are suppose to protect us! I got 16 years of probation for being lied on and back and forth to jail under strict supervision has made my life a living hell dealing with the system! Just imagine the people that don't have a voice! Something has to happen soon It can't just be social media post and conversations when they continue to destroy us like this! #imreadytostandup"

Missy Elliott

"Tossed & turned in my sleep last night just so sad, & it's frustrating SMH #PhilandoCastile #AltonSterling."

Nicki Minaj

"May the spirit of Malcolm X be reborn... for such a time as this."

Taraji P. Henson

"Sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Serena Williams

"In London I have to wake up to this. He was black. Shot 4 times? When will something be done- no REALLY be done?!?!"

Lin-Manuel Miranda

"Philando Castile. Alton Sterling. Never coming home. Black lives matter. Not just as a hashtag, not just in all caps, in real life."

Rashida Jones

"Not ONE conviction for police murders of innocent black people. No accountability. Police reform NOW,"

John Legend

"So many people work so hard to find a reason why executing a human being during a routine traffic stop is ok. IT'S NOT OK."

KeKe Palmer

"The suffering of the African American ppl is also humanities suffering! This is ALL of our issue!" #AltonSterling

Kenny Smith: *“I challenge each guy to allocate 10 percent of their salary to the communities that they’ve come from. Ten percent. Think of the agent. Ten percent and this dude just makes a phone call. He makes a phone call,” he said. “That \$90 million per team per year per salary cap goes to 74 percent of the African-American men in our league.”*

“So now you can make a social-economic impact,” he continued. “Which creates empowerment and creates education and opportunities that allow you to skip past all of the things that go on for a big group.

“I think that’s the responsibility,” he added.

Defiance!: The Spirit of Farrakhan Affects Athletes and Entertainers



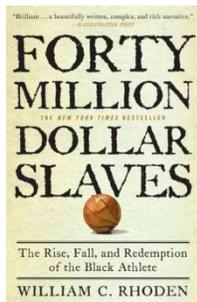
Colin Kaepernick and all of the aforementioned and cited athletes and entertainers are a part of a generation in Black America that has been heavily influenced by the musical art form known as Hip-Hop. The rise and prominence of Hip-Hop as a global art form and pop culture phenomenon coincides with the period of time of the rebuilding of the Nation of Islam by the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. On the Minister’s part he has been like a mother and father to the Hip-Hop community. Like a father he has admonished them for the role and responsibility that they have to set a positive example for their fans and to be leaders within their community. Like a father the Minister has educated and enlightened rap artists to the need for them to own their talent and wrestle away from unscrupulous music companies the ownership of a culture that is borne and developed in the Black community. Like a mother the Minister has defended rappers when they got into trouble with the law and were summarily being crucified in the media with smear campaigns and character assassinations. Like a mother the Minister has also intervened, both personally and through his representatives, to help peacefully resolve many so-called “Rap Beefs” or disagreements among feuding rappers and groups. The rappers have in return laced many of their songs with ‘sampled’ sections of Minister Farrakhan’s speeches. They have also, as a group, been the most courageous in embracing the Minister in the public; in spite of the regular attempts to taint the Minister coming from various spheres of Jewish influence.

Premier rapper and pop culture ‘phenom’ Kanye West is emerging as yet another prominent Black person to have been positively affected by what is present in the atmosphere of a spirit of revolutionary defiance emanating in and through the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. I recall not too long ago when Kanye spoke strong words of defiance at a Chicago concert to thousands of his fans. Kanye even revealed to the thousands in his audience that he had taken counsel with Minister Farrakhan and as a result, he would not be apologizing to Abraham Foxman for saying that *“Black people don’t have the same level of connections as Jewish people.”* Foxman claimed that Kanye’s words were classic anti-Semitism. And in truth, nothing could be more absurd. Kanye’s words were merely a statement of the obvious. And without apologizing, Kanye has since clarified his remarks and by saying that they may have constituted an “ignorant compliment.”

What Kanye is exhibiting deserves analysis and encouragement. His close association with Minister Farrakhan during this controversy is sure to be condemned. For years Blacks in all professions have

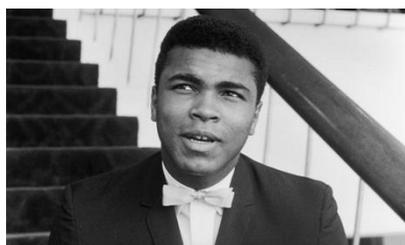
been cautioned to stay away from Minister Farrakhan. The phrase Farrakhan Litmus Test has been used to describe how one's favorable view of Minister Farrakhan could be used against them. Failing the Farrakhan Litmus Test might mean the loss of a contract, being overlooked for a job promotion or failing to be confirmed as a justice on the Supreme Court. The brilliant professor Derrick Bell once observed this phenomenon as such: ***"Smart and super articulate, Minister Farrakhan is perhaps the best living example of a black man ready, willing and able to 'tell it like it is' regarding who is responsible for racism in this country Every black person important enough to be interviewed is asked to condemn Minister Farrakhan."***

Athletes and entertainers are the most influential of all professions in the world today. And there is an expectation that Black athletes and entertainers remain politically neutral. In his great book 40 Million Dollar Slaves, author William C. Rhoden discusses how this came about by examining the politically neutral career of the most high profile athlete of all time, Michael Jordan. Rhoden condemns Jordan's misuse of his powerful fame and popularity by noting that, *"...Black athletes like Jordan have abdicated their responsibility to the community with an apathy that borders on treason."* Michael Jordan has become a model for the athlete or entertainer today who seeks riches, fame and success along the path of least resistance. Following this path ensures Black athletes and entertainers a certain level of success in their careers in exchange for not using their success as a platform to champion causes that benefit the Black community.



Film producer Bill Siegel has recently debuted the latest documentary on the life of famed boxing champion Muhammad Ali. The film entitled The Trials of Muhammad Ali emphasizes the struggles of the world's most popular athlete in the areas of faith, family, profession and principles. This film is so profound, that it can be easily considered the best movie about Muhammad Ali ever made. This film exposes us to the eternal value of Muhammad Ali that lies in his example of defiance and resistance to racism and injustice. This film reminds us of that there was once another model for success in sports and entertainment long before the Jordan model had become the standard.

But Ali's principled stance against the war in Vietnam was not an organic epiphany. Siegel's film helps us to see that at his core, Muhammad Ali was a young talented fighter who had become profoundly affected and impacted by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam. Being inspired by the Nation of Islam and Mr. Muhammad's teaching, Ali carved a path to riches, fame and success while standing for his beliefs and championing causes that would benefit the Black community.



Jewish organizations have always been keenly interested in the accumulation of wealth among Black people, while at every turn seeking to control it. They have a long history of being accountants, managers and agents of Black talent. As a result they have a fear of the message and presence of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam. Because the Nation's message emphasizes that as Blacks, we pool our money among ourselves and grow our own economic strength, and that we fight all who interfere with this process. Jewish professor Marc Dollinger wrote once that ***"Despite the NOI's political marginalization, American Jewish Committee officials still feared Muhammad. His charismatic personality, willingness to confront racism in the most dramatic rhetorical terms and ability to inspire even non-believing African American listeners concerned Jewish***

leaders. The NOI leader, they feared, could earn the respect of his Black audiences, even if they chose not to join his movement.”

Nowadays, the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan is the source of this fear among Jewish interests. Abraham Foxman in April said in Ha'aertz Magazine that **“The only leadership that now exists in that community”—the “African American community”—“is Louis Farrakhan. Farrakhan can assemble 20,000 people several times a year,...”** So like his teacher before him, Minister Farrakhan is feared for his ability to, to **“inspire even non-believing African American listeners.”**



Farrakhan has a long standing relationship with all sectors of the arts and culture community, beginning with his own career as a trained classical violinist and pioneering Calypso singer and performer. In Spiegel's film on Muhammad Ali we learn that some of Ali's earliest exposure to the Nation of Islam message was as a result hearing a musical record performed by Minister Farrakhan entitled **“A White Man's Heaven Is A Black Man's Hell.”** In the Minister's ministry he has always made outreach to Blacks in arts and culture a priority. Minister Farrakhan has delivered keynote messages to Hip-Hop summits where he passionately explained to the artists their leadership role and

responsibility to use their talent in a socially conscious way. The Minister has patiently worked with artists and athletes to enlighten them on the importance of ownership and economic independence noting the sad legacy of former entertainers who end their lives broken and penniless.

Kanye's words in defiance to Abe Foxman calls to mind Minister Farrakhan's words to the rappers during these summits to be more than just entertainers. In fact there are numerous examples throughout the sports and entertainment world that suggest that many have been affected directly or indirectly by the spirit of defiance and courage displayed by Minister Farrakhan. Minister Farrakhan has personally advised and counseled many athletes and entertainers. Others are simply inspired to make a change in their personal life or to make a business move based on what they have heard in the Minister's speeches.

Minister Farrakhan inspires us all. The word inspires means to **“breathe in.”** When one is inspired by Minister Farrakhan, they are literally breathing in the revolutionary ideas of Black unity, independence, self-respect, resistance to injustice and inequality, and speaking truth to power, among others. And the Minister's 59 years of teaching, organizing and activism has saturated the atmosphere of ideas so much so that we find traces of his ideas in the seemingly non-related activities of various athletes and entertainers.



When we hear of Jay-Z and Beyonce traveling to Cuba for business against the advice of the government, we think of Minister Farrakhan's travels to Cuba and embracing of Fidel Castro against the official policy of the American government. Kanye's stance against Abraham Foxman reminds us of Minister Farrakhan's stance against the ADL beginning in the 1980's with Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign. The move of LeBron James, DeWayne Wade and Chris Bosh to engineer their own trade to the Miami Heat against the wishes of ownership reveals an outside the box kind of thinking that is reminiscent of much of Minister Farrakhan's preaching.

We also see Minister Farrakhan's spirit in the message rap lyrics of Common, Kanye West, Jasiri X, Immortal Technique, Public Enemy and countless others over the years. When Essence magazine

interviewed the very talented Ms. Janelle Monae on her signature modest wardrobe attire she said that "Showing my skin is not what makes me sexy,...I like skirts and dresses just like everyone else, but I had a message I needed to put out there. It was up to me to show people and young girls there was another way." Janelle's thoughtful words echo Minister Farrakhan's spirit and insistence that Black women represent themselves before the world as modest, dignified and beautiful.



For sure, there are not enough artists who are willing to defy industry standards and the false expectation that Black athletes and entertainers remain politically neutral. One can only hope that Kanye, Colin Kaepernick, Beyonce, Alicia Keyes and all of those whom we have included in this report become stronger and more refined in their approach. One can only hope that other artists will see the value in becoming socially conscious and cause-oriented. Each is blessed with a powerful platform whereby they could reach millions of people with cause-oriented messaging if they did not fear loss. Early indications cause us to believe that Colin Kaepernick is such a **fearless athlete** whose commitment to standing up for what is right trumps any considerations of the loss of wealth. His comments that **"If they take football away, my endorsements from me, I know that I stood up for what is right,"** flies in the face of decades of the "Jordan model" politically neutral athletes who refused to use their celebrity status to focus attention to the critical issues of the day. Our thoughts are with and in support of Colin Kaepernick; our prayers are for his continued success on and off the field. And as students of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, we are prepared to support him and come to his aid in whatever way he would need us.

...

*Those who say, Our Lord is Allah, then continue in the right way, the angels descend upon them, saying: **Fear not, nor be grieved**, and receive good news of the Garden which you were promised. We are your friends in this world's life and in the Hereafter, and you have therein what your souls desire and you have therein what you ask for. A welcome gift from the Forgiving, the Merciful.*

-Holy Qur'an 41:30-31

*Go both of you to Pharaoh, surely he is inordinate; Then speak to him a gentle word, haply he may mind or fear. They said: Our Lord, we fear lest he hasten to do evil to us or be inordinate. He said: **Fear not, surely I am with you** — I do hear and see.*

-Holy Qur'an 20:43-46

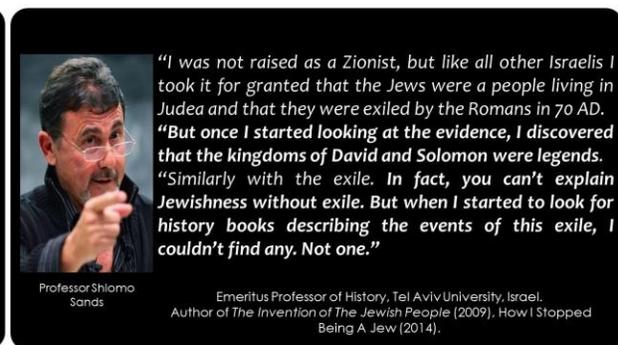
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[Recommendations: "Break The Wealth of Pharaoh"](#)

Among the various reactions by athletes and entertainers to the recent spike in police brutality, justice system failures, environmental racism and spikes in Black poverty percentages, the most significant reactions have been those that advocated the marshalling of the Black community's

collective spending power to both cripple institutions that oppose justice for us and to simultaneously re-direct our **“Black Dollars”** to the building of Black businesses. This is the theme of Minister Farrakhan’s message throughout this particular season where the Black community seeks answers to what our response should be to achieving the justice that we so desperately deserve.

In **Black Liberation Theology**, especially as espoused by the Nation of Islam, there is the belief that there is a special and divine destiny for Black people in America. This belief centers around the evidence that proves that it is really the Black people of America who fulfill the allegorical, prophetic and symbolic references in scripture to a group that has not been actually located in historical or archaeological research. This group of people are known and referred to in the scriptures as the “Children of Israel.” Israeli scholars and professors have concluded that the people referred to in the Torah and Qur’an are not the same people as the modern Israelis. They have looked and scoured the entire Middle East region and come up with no evidence to support a popular belief that the Jewish people of Israel are in fact the same people called the “Children of Israel” in the scriptures.



What is most important and most relevant about the scriptures relating to the destiny of the “Children of Israel” are the aspects of this narrative that involve economic justice. In the Holy Qur’an Pharaoh feared that Moses would change the religion of the enslaved “Children of Israel.” In Surah 40:26 *“And Pharaoh said: Leave me to slay Moses and let him call upon his Lord. Surely **I fear that he will change your religion** or that he will make mischief to appear in the land.”* Pharaoh’s fear had nothing to do with which deity the slaves believed in. More practically, his fear was that a belief in the God of Moses by his slaves would destabilize the economic strength and power in Egypt due to their dependency on an endless supply of free slave labor.

And Minister Farrakhan, like a modern Moses in America today, has publicly commanded Black America to **use its dollar as a weapon** to destabilize the American economic status quo that no longer depends upon an endless supply of free slave labor, but instead critically depends on what has become an endless supply of uninterrupted Black consumer dollars lining the coffers of its most important merchants.

The Bible in the book of Exodus says that Moses instructed the enslaved “Children of Israel” to secure ‘gold and silver’ from the Egyptian economy for the purpose of liberation. Exodus chapter 11 reads: *Now the LORD said to Moses, “One more plague I will bring on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out from here completely. “Speak now in the hearing of the people that each man ask from his neighbor and each woman from her neighbor*

for articles of silver and articles of gold.” The LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Furthermore, the man Moses himself was greatly esteemed in the land of Egypt, both in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people. (Exodus 11:1-3)

In the modern context Minister Farrakhan has championed a similar strategy. To prepare against the falling dollar he has advised the purchase of gold and silver. And to harness the Black community’s collective buying power, he has re-enacted the **3-Year Economic Savings Plan** (Found here - <http://www.economicblueprint.org/>) first called for by the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad. This plan only asks that every Black and Indigenous person in America donate \$0.05 (5 cents/\$18.20 per year) per day toward the building of a national treasury that would be used to purchase upwards of 100 million acres of farm land in America.



Athletes and entertainers who are awakening to their power and responsibility are encouraged to endorse the Minister’s plan and promote it in their respective spheres of influence. Consider the rise in jersey sales for Colin Kaepernick’s No.7 San Francisco 49ers jersey. According to Fortune Magazine **“his \$99 jersey has shot from the league’s 20th bestseller to the No. 1 spot.”** (Found here - <http://fortune.com/2016/09/08/colin-kaepernick-jersey/>) To his credit Brother Colin has committed to donate his portion of jersey profits back into the Black community. However, there was nothing about his protest against the flag and the national anthem that was intended to encourage the Black community towards our all too frequent unhealthy spending habits. I am sure that if we asked Brother Colin what recommendations he had for all who wanted to express their solidarity with his stance, he would have directed us to do as he is doing by donating our time and monies to worthy causes and noble works that are already in motion inside the Black community.

The Holy Qur’an in Surah 10 Ayat 88 records the God of Moses(*Allah-swt*) accepting a prayer that Moses made to Him wherein he observed that the best way to accomplish the liberation of the “Children of Israel” was to **break the wealth of Pharaoh.** Ayat 10:88 read:

Moses said: Our Lord, surely Thou has given Pharaoh and his chiefs finery and riches in this worlds’ life, our Lord, that they may lead (people) astray from Thy way. Our Lord, destroy their riches... Allah said: Your prayer is accepted; so continue in the right way and follow not the path of those who know not.

The guidance of Minister Farrakhan to harness our own spending power is in harmony with the Holy Qur'an. The quotes mentioned above that reflect the thinking of Larry Johnson, Kenny Smith and Exzibit, in particular, also harmonize with the sacred texts as they all prescribe an economic strategy-the ultimate weaponization of the dollar by the Black consumer for the purpose of retaliatory justice!



Finally, we also call upon the awakened enchanter of the modern Pharaoh's to participate in and encourage their fans to participate in the holiday boycott called for by Minister Farrakhan. Again, we emphasize the value of economic strategies as being one of the strongest weapons one can wield in a capitalist society. Some have even argued that *the God of capitalism is the dollar and its religion is commerce*. One only need to observe how the various

immigrant communities who have organized themselves into "ethnic enclaves" rarely suffer the kinds of social ills that have become norms in the Black community. Their practice of collective and cooperative economics provides a powerful immunity from gross poverty and its resulting pathologies.

Minister Farrakhan's call for a holiday boycott of the Black Friday /Christmas spending season and the Black communities support for it proved to be a strong contributor to a major drop in sales that even resulted in many popular retailers shutting down stores in the wake of the boycott, where we even witnessed the God of the modern Moses-Minister Louis Farrakhan- participating in the boycott by causing the weather to be unusually warm during the winter months.

A snapshot of the tremendous impact brought about by Minister Farrakhan, Black consumers and God Himself include:

Best Buy - Holiday sales declined as the retailer sold fewer smartphones than expected. Domestic sales over the nine weeks through Jan. 2 fell 1.2%.

(Source: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/best-buy-cuts-guidance-after-holiday-season-sales-decline-1452775862>)

Macy's - Announced plans to lay off 4,350 employees due to disappointing holiday sales. The company said sales in the critical November and December period slumped by a worse-than-expected 5%. It blamed the "historically warm weather" in northern climates. Macy's said about 80% of its sales declines can be attributed to shortfalls in cold-weather goods like coats, sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves.

(Source: <http://money.cnn.com/2016/01/06/investing/macys-cuts-3000-jobs-holiday-sales/>)

Sears - Comparable-store sales in the 4th quarter dropped 6.9 percent at Sears, and 7.2 percent at Kmart, which the company also owns. Sears has accelerated plans to close 50 stores and it expects total revenue to hit \$7.3 billion for the fourth quarter -- down from \$8.1 billion last year.

(Source: <http://money.cnn.com/2016/02/09/news/companies/sears-kmart-stores-closing/>)

As one last encouragement to today's awakening cadre of Black athletes and entertainers we cite the courageous stance of Black entertainers in 1963, who in the aftermath of the bombing and cold blooded murder of 4 Black girls in a Birmingham church called for a boycott of the Christmas holiday.



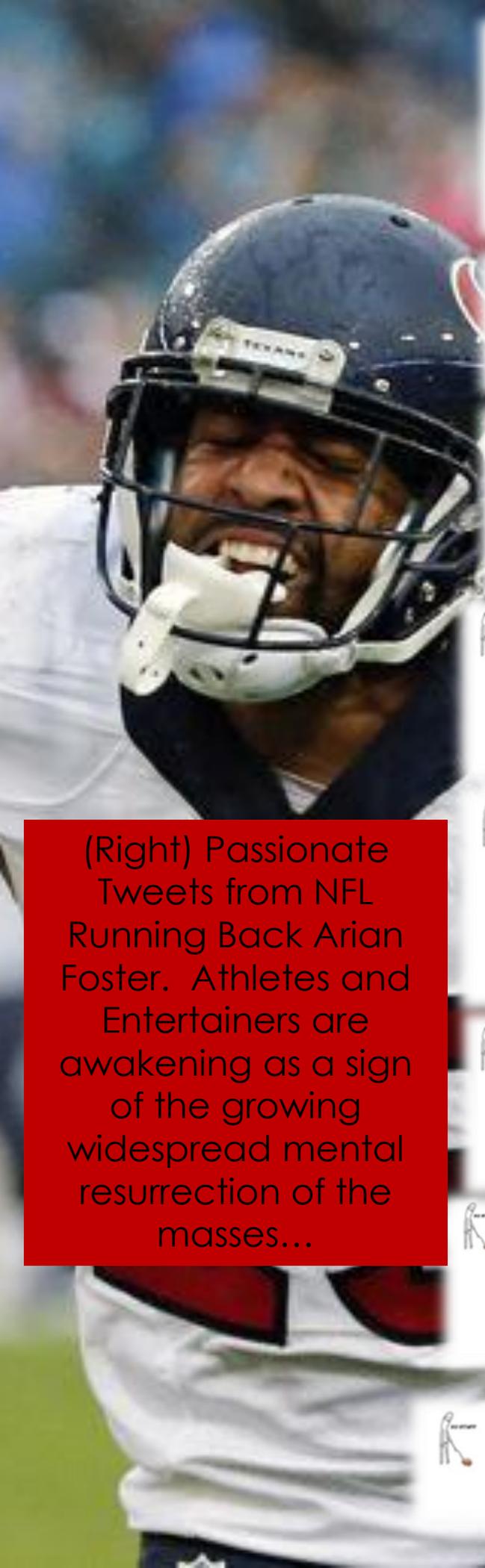
And there are many more examples of the great pioneering and sacrificial athletes and entertainers of the past. Their histories serve as encouragement and set a precedent for the modern athletes and entertainers. The awakening of athletes and entertainers represents one of the most significant developments of our time. Their awakening is a sign and an indicator of the broader mental resurrection of the masses. Against their will, and often unbeknownst to them, they have been used. They have been controlled and employed in a dumbing down campaign against the best interest of the masses of the American people. Their talent has been a part of a “wickedly wise” strategy to enrapture the thinking of the people into a fantasy-world and artificial reality, while government and big business commit unimaginable crimes—all in the name of a dumbed down electorate. But as we have shown with a scriptural overlay and analysis, all who have been used by the modern Pharaohs are destined to awaken and give up Pharaoh and his work. We salute them; we encourage them, and we welcome them as fellow laborers in the vineyard of the Lord.

...

He will guide them and improve their condition. And make them enter the Garden, which He has made known to them. O you who believe, if you help Allah, He will help you and make firm your feet.

-Holy Qur'an 47:5-7

My Lord, grant me that I may give thanks for Thy favour, which Thou has bestowed on me and on my parents, and that I may do good which pleases Thee; and be good to me in respect of my offspring. Truly I turn to Thee, and truly I am of those who submit. These are they from whom We accept the best of what they do and pass by their evil deeds — among the owners of the Garden. A promise of truth, which they were promised. -Holy Qur'an 46:15-16



- Feeno @ArianFoster · 42m
they either assassinate you, or assassinate your character. old divide and conquer tactic they've been using for hundreds of years.
- Feeno @ArianFoster · 42m
justice will come. unfortunately then only language America understands is blood.
- Feeno @ArianFoster · 41m
educate yourselves and your youth on their rights. this is a systemic problem, it's set up for us to lose.
- Feeno @ArianFoster · 39m
there will be no sympathy from oppressors or enablers of oppressors. victims are vilified.
- Feeno @ArianFoster · 38m
we've been screaming police brutality for decades, and because we can drink out of the same water fountain as you, you think it's fair game
- Feeno @ArianFoster · 37m
it's not. white privilege is real. racism is real. systemic oppression is real. education is key in this.
- Feeno @ArianFoster · 35m
selling 10oz of crack gets you 10 years, money laundering billions gets you 6 months. the game is rigged.
- Feeno @ArianFoster · 26m
it's deeper than this generation. we still feel the effects trickled down from our bloodline. we are descendants of genocide.

(Right) Passionate Tweets from NFL Running Back Arian Foster. Athletes and Entertainers are awakening as a sign of the growing widespread mental resurrection of the masses...

To my brother and companion in struggle Colin Kaepernick: I am deeply grateful to Almighty God Allah for the courageous stand that you have taken.

Courage is one of the great characteristics of great men and women. And at the root of courage is love for the principle that is bigger than our lives, bigger than our nation. And this is what moves great men and women to move a nation forward, by standing against injustice, standing against tyranny and oppression, and standing against the institution of slavery. This nation would not be what it is had there not been men and women who were willing to suffer to bring about meaningful change that moved a people, a nation and a world toward the realization of some eternal principle. The greatest of these principles is the essence of life itself: Freedom, Justice and Equality.

At the root of your courage is love; a love that would allow you to sacrifice yourself, your income, your reputation, to take a stand for those who are unable to stand for themselves. Instead of being disliked and evil spoken of by some of our own, those who are sent into positions of strength will never use that strength to bring about real change. This is a world of sport and play and the Blacks and the Browns and the poor are those who are the greatest in strength and power in sports, in music, and those fields the American people greatly admire. Our athletes and artists have the means to make a stand to force change. I pray that instead of condemning you that our brothers and sisters and all those who love justice, will commend you for your stand and join your stand in whatever way they can. But until we stand, the people that oppress others will continue to oppress. The people that terrorize others will continue to terrorize others who, in their cowardice and weakness or desire to benefit from the status quo, stand by the wayside and allow others to stand, when if they summoned courage they would stand with you as well.

Your stand has unearthed things about Francis Scott Key and the writing of the lyrics of the Star-Spangled Banner, that would make any person of right thinking and right mind cringe at what was in the mind of the man that wrote the words of the Star-Spangled Banner.

I stand with you. We in the Nation of Islam stand with you. And I'm asking all right thinking Black people, Brown people, and White people to stand with you to force the change that Mr. Trump and Mrs. Clinton are talking; but it will never happen until the people are sick and tired of injustice and summon the courage to stand to make a difference.

This is our time while we are alive to make a difference and pass on to a succeeding generation a better world than we inherited. We need thousands more like Colin Kaepernick.

Best wishes for your continued success.

Your Brother,

Minister Louis Farrakhan

August 30, 2016

An Official Statement from

The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan (August 30, 2016)

