

THE PRAXIS OF A PROTAGONIST!

Ingenious Muhammad Ali – born Cassius Marcellus Clay January 17, 1942 in Louisville Kentucky died Friday June 3, 2016. He was more than a golden glover (1959,1960), and gold medal recipient (1960). He was a crafty, prophetic, iconic, innovative, complex prize fighter, who shaped a universal world view for justice, respect, and tolerance, while amplifying his disdain for racism, white supremacy, domination, oppression, bigotry, militarization, war, and imperialism. As a pragmatic and principled humanist he managed his skills with integrity, devotion, nobility and dignity in a sport that purports “brutality and blood”(civilization of barbarism). He announced in 1964 that he was a member of the Nation of Islam, and identified Africa as his ancestral homeland. His Business Manager Herbert Muhammad once said “Invite Muhammad Ali to fight and your country will share the world spotlight.” Muhammad Ali used his wits, vision, poetry, rhythm, rhyme, dexterity, oratory and sloganeering to taunt his opponents while acquiring attention to issues as he played and set his stage to grab the media: toying with Howard Cosell, his hometown Louisville, Berrien Springs, Michigan, Arizona or an “arena” – The world was his platform and he used it with fortitude, resiliency and forthrightness. He never side-stepped issues – even when he was stripped of his boxing title in 1967 and unable to practice his profession or leave the country, due to his conviction for draft evasion and sentenced to five years in prison, which was reversed in June 1971 (8-0) by the U.S. Supreme Court on religious grounds. Was he exiled from his profession? Muhammad Ali demonstrated resolve and independence like his predecessor Paul Robeson who also had his passport lifted, and who received the Abraham Lincoln medal in 1943. Ali was awarded, a prestigious medal, the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush in 2005 – How ironic! Ali never gave up as he continued to forge a future of possibilities with dedication, and superb physical fitness while respecting his detractors as he awoke consciousness on lecture circuits, speaking on college campuses until the gates were opened in 1970 and on October 1, 1975 he fought Joe Frazier in Manila with Ali winning by TKO. Even though he was stricken with Parkinson’s disease he told his story with his wife Yolanda “Lonnie” Williams. He lit the Olympic flame in 1996 in Atlanta Georgia – with shaking hands – the said state that issued him a boxing license in 1970 to fight Jerry Quarry October 26, 1970 after 150 fights – amateur and professional.

Reflectively, his life was a testimonial of struggle and sacrifice for the
Universal common good. Muhammad Ali's legacy will be forever chronicled!

A man of peace and freedom!

Tidbits of his mantras: "Float like a Butterfly, sting like a bee."

"Ali shuffle" – "Rope – a – Dope."

"Keep asking me, no matter how long on the war in Vietnam, I sing this song
I ain't got no quarrel with the Viet Cong..."

"They never called me nigger" They never lynched me, they didn't put no
dogs on me."

"I'm the greatest!" "I'm the prettiest!" "I can't be beat!" "He must fall in five!"

"In the ring I can stay until I'm old and gray because I know how to hit and
dance away..."

"Didn't you hear me? I said I was the Greatest"

Muhammad Ali the Greatest - scripted his own story! Complexity through
simplicity – awakening consciousness. Legendary – "The Louisville Lip"
retired from boxing in 1981 - 56 wins 5 losses!

Peace be unto him!

Is this Epical? Tell them!

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*Read: Bathersfield NO WAY OUT PAGE 24

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