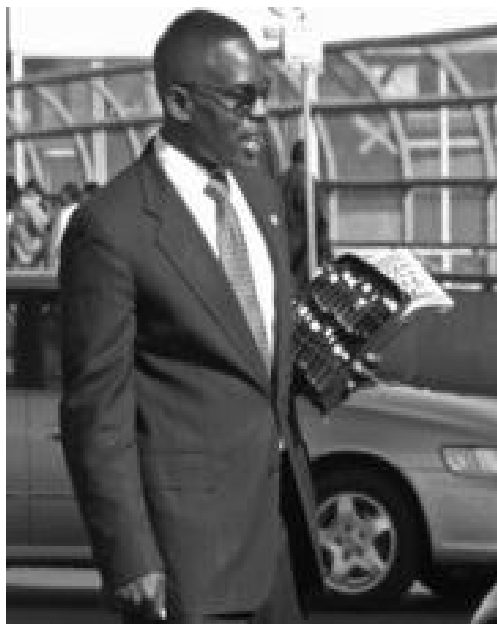


# Eight Heads in a Duffle Bag

## The Farrakhan Controversy, Part VI.

By

Sergeant Sam Smith



Christians must be cautioned about judging the Nation of Islam (NOI) based solely on their clean-cut appearance and plain, conservative dress. The NOI gives the perception of clean, wholesome living while strengthening the traditional family. Malcolm X wrote of his first visit to an NOI Temple in Detroit, Michigan, *“I never had seen any Christian-believing Negroes conduct themselves like the Muslims, the individuals and the families alike. The men were quietly, tastefully dressed. The women wore ankle-length gowns, no makeup, and scarves covered their heads. The neat children were mannerly not only to adults but to other children as well.”*<sup>1</sup> It must be pointed out that Malcolm X was not murdered by the “Christian-believing Negroes,” but assassinated by three Black Muslims, wearing dark business suits and bow ties, as directed by the Prophet Elijah Muhammad.

### The Nation of Islam’s Theology of Killing Whitey

The white conman, Wallace Ford, revered by the Nation of Islam (NOI) as Master Fard Muhammad, developed a strange theology between 1930 and 1933. He presented his ideas in an educational series called “The Supreme Lessons.” Members were drilled with these lessons in the form of questions and answers. They had to memorize and recite the lessons. Many NOI members were unskilled laborers who were illiterate and uneducated so the lessons focused primarily on basic math, English, and reading. Nevertheless, within these basic skills lessons were entwined the “bizarre metaphysical statements that manipulated uneducated blacks to criminal activities.”<sup>2</sup> One of the Supreme Lessons encouraged Muslims to kill four white devils to win a free trip to the Holy City of Mecca.

On November 21, 1932, NOI member, Robert Harris, renamed Robert Karriem, followed his god’s commandment of blood sacrifice when he murdered his tenant by stabbing him through his heart on a sacrificial altar inside his home, in front of his wife and children and several other Black Muslims. In court it was revealed that Harris also intended to sacrifice two white, Christian welfare workers to the god of Islam. The Harris Sacrifice became a national media sensation that brought negative attention to the cult of the NOI, Master Fard, and its twisted theology.

## Elijah Muhammad Continued Teaching NOI Children to Kill White People in Private Islamic Schools

In 1934, Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam were criminally charged by the State of Michigan for taking their children out of the public school system. When the case went to trial the state called Sally Ali as their key witness. The prosecutor asked her, *“What were you taught at the University of Islam about white people?”* She replied, *“I was taught that...if I cut off the heads of four devils...I would win a trip to Mecca and a button with Allah’s picture on it.”* The judge asked her, *“Who is Allah?”* *“W.D. Fard,”* she said proudly.<sup>3</sup> The prosecutor told the judge in his closing statements that the children at the University of Islam were being trained not only to decapitate whites, but also to murder blacks whom they considered enemies. He warned that there had already been at least one black victim of the “voodoo cult rituals.” He argued that there were bound to be others unless Elijah Muhammad was incarcerated and the Nation of Islam was outlawed for good.<sup>4</sup> The prosecutor predictions came true. His statements proved to be more than just courtroom theatrics. Countless innocent white victims were murdered as well as black NOI defectors or black citizens who dared to speak out against Elijah Muhammad or the Nation of Islam

At the conclusion of the trial, Elijah Muhammad pled guilty and was placed on six months probation and he agreed to shut down his University of Islam and enroll the NOI children in the public school system.

## Another Human Sacrifice Scandal for the Nation of Islam

In the late 1930’s, after Master Fard disappeared and Elijah Muhammad took over as leader of the NOI, he reinstated some of Fard’s ritualistic ceremonies, including “human sacrifice.”<sup>5</sup> In January of 1937, Elijah mandated that it was the moral obligation of every Muslim head of the household to convert his entire family. Furthermore, any man who failed to convert his family within one year of joining the NOI was threatened with expulsion. The NOI was about to be hit with another national scandal involving a Black Muslim and human sacrifice. Detroit Muslim, Verlin McQueen, renamed Verlin Ali by Master Fard in 1933, could not persuade his wife and daughter to join the NOI. Before there had been no pressure for him to get his family to join the cult until Elijah decreed it. McQueen’s own biological brother, Todd McQueen (renamed Tata Pasha) was an assistant minister at a Detroit satellite temple. Pasha, who had been successful in converting his wife and children, commanded McQueen to convert his family or sacrifice them to Allah.<sup>6</sup>

McQueen pleaded with his wife and eleven-year-old daughter to join him and his brother in serving Master Fard. His wife refused. She cited McQueen’s promise to her that if she came back to him (they were separated for seven years) that she would not have to join the NOI. Her refusal would cost McQueen his standing in the NOI. His lifestyle and Black Muslim brotherhood fellowship was threatened. He decided to sacrifice them both. On January 18, he invited 12 people into his home to witness the human sacrifices of his wife and daughter. He boiled a ten-gallon pot of water to be used as holy water. McQueen refused to tell his wife why he was boiling the water, but she remembered overhearing Pasha instruct him to murder her and her daughter if he valued his membership in the NOI. Rebecca McQueen fled the home for her life and reported her husband’s actions to the police. The police arrived and questioned Verlin

McQueen and he admitted that he planned to murder his family. He was arrested and charged with attempted murder.

The negative media attention brought shame and disgrace once again to the NOI. Many Muslims reconsidered the consequences of their membership to Elijah's cult. As a result, over 500 families quit the Detroit and Chicago temples within a few weeks of McQueen scandal.<sup>7</sup>

### Fard's Doctrines Influenced NOI Members From Beyond the Grave

Charles 41X, also known as Ali K. Muslim, of Temple Number Twenty-Five, Newark, New Jersey, recalled the following story from the early 1970's where a man carrying a sack entered the mosque and asked to meet with a temple official. The man said that he came to be awarded with the star-and-crescent lapel pin and a trip to Mecca. The man said he could prove that he earned the awards and opened up his sack and showed the official four severed heads. Muslim said he called the police and the man was arrested.<sup>8</sup>

### America's First Domestic Terrorist Group

There have been several other senseless killings over the past 70 years committed by NOI members targeting fellow Black Muslims as well as innocent white victims. During the 1970's the Nation of Islam carried out the bloodiest, domestic terrorist acts in American history. It is estimated that NOI members may have murdered as many as 270 whites in California alone. Attacks were recorded in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Long Beach, Palo Alto, Los Angeles, Pacifica, and San Diego. There were recorded attacks in rural areas in the following counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Ventura. Thomas Bates, a rare survivor was hitchhiking near the Bay Bridge at Emeryville, north of Oakland, when two black men pulled up in an old model Cadillac. The passenger rolled down the window and grinned at Bates and said, "*Hello, devil,*" and shot him in the hip, stomach, and arm at point blank range. Bates, losing blood, was able to make it to a nearby motel where employees called the police and an ambulance.<sup>9</sup>



The most famous case involves the "Zebra Killings" that occurred in the San Francisco Bay area between 1972 and 1974. The numbers vary from researcher to researcher, but a conservative estimate is a probable 71 victims.<sup>10</sup>

This series of serial murders were dubbed "the Zebra Murders" because of the police radio unit identifier code ("Z") used by the San Francisco Police Department detectives who investigated the killings. The media frenzy gave the "murders" the moniker of "Zebra," a possible double play meaning of the Zebra radio identifier code and the phenomenon of black killers and white victims.

The Zebra Murders victims were specifically targeted because of their race by a special group of black assassins within the Nation of Islam called the "Death Angels." The Death Angels' reign of terror occurred over a period of 179 days. Only four men were tried and

convicted. They claimed they were financed by the Nation of Islam and had a brotherhood of over 2,000 members throughout the country.<sup>11</sup> Grand jury testimony also exposed that John Muhammad, the local NOI minister of Temple Number Twenty-Six, hired attorneys for the convicted men.<sup>12</sup>

According to court documents, the four men argued that they had followed the lessons of the Lost Found Nation of Islam. They murdered fifteen San Francisco residents and permanently injured twelve others. The men stated that these killings were acts of religious obedience; the deaths of white victims did not result from personal or vengeful motives but from the actions of deeply religious and spiritual men.<sup>13</sup>

The Death Angels had a point system for white victims; giving more points for the murders of white women and children than those given for murdering white men. One member, Anthony Harris told the grand jury that for promotion the Death Angels took pictures and received special commendation for mutilation.<sup>14</sup> According to author Howard Clark in his book *Zebra*, one Death Angel candidate flew to Chicago, "New Mecca," with a collection of grisly photographs, seeking to be promoted to rank of Lieutenant in the Nation of Islam. This candidate dropped in at NOI headquarters and showed them the photos. "His unexpected visit puzzled headquarters staff and might have been disastrous, if he had not been intercepted by a leader of the secret group, who 'counseled' and sent him home."<sup>15</sup>

By October 1973, the San Francisco Death Angels had at least 15 accredited members. Their "winged" photos were displayed on an easel at secret meetings. These 15 members were theoretically responsible for killing 135 men, 75 women, and 60 children.<sup>16</sup> However, only four members were tried and convicted. The Californian State Attorney General's Office compiled a list of 45 murders committed with cleavers, machetes, or close-range gunshots involving white victims and black suspects linked to the Nation of Islam.<sup>17</sup>

The Death Angels worked for two NOI-owned businesses: Black Self Help Moving and Storage (BSHMS) and the Shabazz Bakery. Testimony revealed that candidates were invited to secret meetings at BSHMS to attain the status of Death Angel. Each man could choose to kill four white children, five white women, or nine white men. If the Death Angel candidate attained his goal, then a pair of black wings were attached to his photograph and pinned up in an upstairs room of the BSHMS.

The killings were particularly gruesome. The Death Angel candidates used machetes to torture their victims over long periods of time and some of the women were raped. It was on site at BSHMS where the Death Angels butchered at least two white victims; one was a homeless man whom was bound and gagged. The Black Muslims slowly dismembered him while he was still alive. Harris told the detectives that they dumped the body into San Francisco Bay. The other murders were just as atrocious. They abducted Richard and Quita Hague, a white married couple. Quita was sexually fondled by two of the men and then nearly decapitated by a third with a machete. One of the molesters hacked Richard's face and head with a machete and left him for dead. He somehow survived the brutal attack.

The brutality and a complete lack of remorse on the part of the murderers marked these attacks. On November 25, 1973, 53-year-old, Saleem "Sammy" Erekat, a Jordanian Arab Muslim, was bound and shot execution-style behind his grocery. Ereket was killed for looking "too white."

Many of the victims were old and feeble. For example, Vincent Wollin was shot in the back and killed on his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mildred Hosler, an obese, older woman was shot while trying to escape her younger and faster attacker. Ilario Bertucci, a 135-pound, 81-year-old janitor, was killed while he was walking home from work. Marietta DiGirolamo, a 5'1" white woman was shot and killed on her way to a neighborhood bar. "In none of these cases did the victims do anything to provoke the murderers. They simply had white skin and were in the wrong place at the wrong time."<sup>18</sup>

There were even some high profile victims. Art Agnos, who was shot and almost killed by the Death Angels, later was elected mayor of San Francisco. Agnos was member of the California Commission on Aging. He was shot on the night he attended a community meeting in a black neighborhood to discuss building a government funded health clinic in the area. After the meeting was over, Agnos stopped to talk with two women. The Death Angels were in the same neighborhood hunting for white victims. One of the killers came up behind Argos and shot him twice in the back. The bullets ripped apart his lungs, spleen and kidneys. Several bystanders witnessed the attack and assisted him. They called an ambulance and Agnos barely survived.<sup>19</sup>

The police were baffled by the lack of motive in the killings. The common denominator in all the killings was that all the killers were black, and most of the victims were white. In all of the attacks, the assailants were described as polite, well-dressed black men who wore their hair closed-cropped or who had shaved their heads.<sup>20</sup>

The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) was frustrated. Stopping these killings was a top priority. Because of the notoriety of the Zebra Murders, tourism to the Golden Gate City nearly died off. The SFPD had a sketch artist draw the one of the suspected Zebra killer based on the descriptions of surviving victims. Mayor Joseph Alioto told the press, *"This is an extraordinary situation and it calls for extreme measures. We are going to be stopping people in San Francisco who have a certain profile. We're going to stop a lot of people. We ask the cooperation of citizens and we want to assure them that we will be mindful of their constitutional rights."*<sup>21</sup>



The black community did not understand and was outraged. Civil rights activists claimed that African Americans were being harassed by the police. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union sued in court that this widespread profiling of African Americans was unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Alfonso J. Zirpoli, agreed and put an injunction on the SFPD stopping African American men who fit the sketch artist's drawing. More than 500 black men were stopped and searched before Operation

Zebra was suspended.<sup>22</sup> However, the SFPD had another tactic. They offered a \$30,000 reward for any information that could lead to the arrest of the Zebra killers.

A Black Muslim and Death Angel candidate named Anthony Harris, who was employed at the Muslim-owned Black Self Help Moving and Storage, responded to the reward offer. Harris had a wife and baby and they were financially struggling. He called the police from a pay phone and homicide detectives interviewed him at the police station. He shocked the hardened, street-wise detectives when he told them about the Death Angels and the point system based on killing white people. Harris told them about the NOI doctrine that white people were an inferior race created by evil scientist named Yacub. The Death Angels believed that by killing the "blue-eyed devils" or "grafted snakes" they would be guaranteed entry to Paradise.



At first the detectives had trouble accepting Harris tall tales, but the longer Harris talked to them, the more they realized he was telling the truth. He told them of details that only a person who had witnessed the murders could be able to recount. Harris made a full confession and named eight other Black Muslims besides himself as the Zebra Killers. It turned out that Harris, Moore, and Cooks knew each other from serving prison sentences in San Quentin and they had joined the Nation of Islam while still behind bars.<sup>23</sup>

Based on Harris's testimony, detectives now had enough probable cause to get arrest warrants for seven suspects and a search warrant for Black Self Help Moving and Storage Company (BSHMS). Just before dawn on May 1, 1974, more than 100 cops raided an apartment building where the Death Angels, J.C. Simon and Larry Green lived. Two other suspects lived at the BSHMS Company on Market Street. The pre-dawn raid was a success. None of the suspects resisted arrest. Of the seven suspects taken into custody, three were later released. Jessie Cooks was already in prison.<sup>24</sup>



San Francisco Mayor Alioto told the press that the suspects were all members of a ring of Black Muslim murderers called "Death Angels," which he described in a statement as a group "dedicated to the murder and mutilation of whites and dissident blacks."<sup>25</sup>

Local black leaders took offense at the mayor's proclamation. Lowell Johnston of the local NAACP legal defense fund told reporters *"The statement seems to suggest one should be careful when around people who dress neatly in the Black Muslim fashion."*<sup>26</sup> NOI minister John Muhammad, of San Francisco's Temple

Number Twenty-Six, called on Mayor Alioto to apologize and said the arrest of the suspects was "nothing less than harassment."<sup>27</sup>

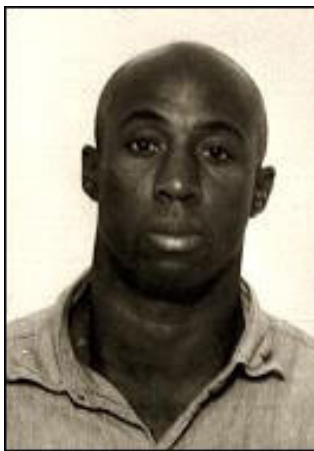
The Muslim-owned Black Self Help Moving and Storage was not only involved in several racist killings of white people, but was a front for a burglary operation. Tom Manney, the manager of Black Self Help Moving and Storage lent the murderers use his black Cadillac and an illegal firearm. However, the District Attorney never charged Manney due to lack of evidence.

San Francisco Homicide Detectives were able to link the murders because the killers used the same weapon for each attack. The gunman favored a 32-caliber pistol; the shells were scattered over the pavement at each crime scene. Detectives were also able to put together information and descriptions from those who survived such as Agnos and Hague.

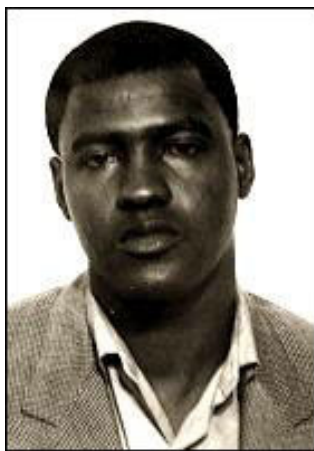
Three other NOI members, Clarence Jamerson, Dwight Stallings, "Jasper Childs" (a pseudonym given to him by *Zebra* author Clark Howard) were also arrested in the Zebra Killings, but were later released for lack of evidence. Homicide Inspector Rotea Gilford, San Francisco's first African American homicide detective, had known Dwight Stallings all his life and he was the man who arrested him in the Zebra Murders investigation. Gilford stated, "*I know he bought ammunition; I don't know if he ever pulled the trigger, but I know he was involved.*"<sup>28</sup>

The trial began on March 3, 1975, and became the longest criminal trial in California history, lasting over a year. Superior Court Judge Joseph Karesh presided over the case, which included 181 witnesses and 3.5 million words of testimony.<sup>29</sup>

Larry Green, J.C. Simon, Manuel Moore and Jessie Lee Cooks were convicted of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder after an 18-hour deliberation by the jury in 1976. Each was sentenced to life imprisonment. Larry Green laughed when the verdict was read. As of this writing, four of the NOI Zebra Killers are still imprisoned for the San Francisco murders. They periodically come up for parole.



Jessie Lee Cooks



J.C. Simon



Manuel Moore

The San Francisco Death Angels seem to have been incompetent when compared to the other Californian Nation of Islam death squads. The San Francisco Death Angels were distracted by committing common street crimes such as burglaries, thefts, robberies, and rapes; while petty rivalries, jealousies, and squabbles hurt team unity. The lack of commitment and cohesion may have led to their downfall. None of the Death Angel murderers outside of San Francisco, who carried out the majority of the racial murders in California were ever caught or convicted.

While the Zebra killings were officially solved, some members of the Zebra task force suspected that at least 71 murders throughout California could have been the work of various other Death Angels squads. For example, during this time newspapers published reports of several racial killings that were allegedly part of an initiation rite of a "fanatical sect of blacks" who were killing white people across the country. In one such report, the *Chronicle* said that a white hitchhiker in Long Beach was picked up by three black men on a freeway and driven to a deserted street, where he was savagely knifed and left for dead.<sup>30</sup> Since many victims were drawn from the ranks of the homeless or hitchhikers, there is no certainty about the actual numbers.

### The Yahweh ben Yahweh Murders: The NOI /Pentecostal Connection

Approximately during the same time of the Zebra Murders on the West Coast, there were another series of racial murders occurring nearly a couple of thousand miles away in Florida at the command of Hulon Mitchell Jr, a son of a Holiness Pentecostal preacher and former NOI member. He later proclaimed himself to be God and had a cult following of nearly 20,000 members in 45 cities.<sup>31</sup> Mitchell was a handsome, charismatic speaker, known for his flowing white robes and jeweled turbans. He controlled a multimillion-dollar business empire that included schools, grocery stores and real estate. His message of black empowerment and black superiority resonated with his supporters. The ranks of his cult were not only made up of the poor and the uneducated, but many of his members were college educated, professionals and even in law enforcement. Membership was as diverse as fraternity boys, sheriff's deputies, grandmothers, and ex-cons fresh out of prison.<sup>32</sup>



Mitchell claimed that he was the "Original Jew,"<sup>33</sup> and taught that blacks were the "true Jews." He taught his followers that African Americans were one of the missing 12 tribes of Israel, driven from their homeland. He taught his flock that God was black, as were the heroes of the Old Testament. He proclaimed himself as the black messiah. He named himself Yahweh ben Yahweh, Hebrew for "God, son of God." He would lead the Black Hebrews back to the promised land of Jerusalem so they could establish their kingdom on earth.<sup>34</sup> He soon focused his religion on a hatred of white people and urged his followers to murder "white devils" and bring him back body parts, a sliced-off ear, finger, or head, as proof of the kill.

## Hulon Mitchell, Jr., Son of a Holiness Pentecostal Preacher

The Yahweh ben Yahweh cult was led by a self-proclaimed, black messiah named Hulon Mitchell Jr., an Oklahoma native and son of a dirt-poor, Holiness Pentecostal preacher. He was the oldest of 15 children born into a Pentecostal family in 1935. Even though Mitchell came from humble beginnings, at one time he showed potential. He served in the U.S. Air Force, earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and even studied in law school.

## Mitchell, AKA "Hulon Shaw," Nation of Islam Minister

However, he dropped out of law school in 1961 after he joined the Nation of Islam in Chicago. As a Black Muslim, he patronized black businesses and stood on street corners hawking copies of the Nation's newspaper, *Muhammad Speak*. He renamed himself Hulon Shah. "Shah" means ruler or minister. He stayed with the NOI for six years.

Mitchell left the NOI in 1967 after there were rumors of sexual improprieties and the embezzlement of \$50,000 and accusations of molesting children. He did not wait around for church investigations to conclude. He quit the movement and left town for fear of being assassinated like Malcolm X and other troublemakers within the NOI.

## Mitchell, AKA "Father Mitchell"



He moved to Atlanta, Georgia and opened a storefront church. He called himself Father Mitchell and donned white robes. He continued preaching the NOI doctrine of hate; that white people were devils and the root of all evil. He used his economics degree to manage several Black Muslim enterprises, including restaurants, a bakery and a clothing store.

He teamed up with another preacher called "Father Jone," and they began preaching their prosperity messages on Atlanta's airwaves. They pushed a doctrine of a "total blessing plan" on Atlanta's gospel stations. For a small donation, they promised listeners health, wealth, happiness and even winning lottery numbers. He started several religious scams to earn money such as selling "blessed prayer cloths." He printed brochures claiming he could heal people who purchased a prayer cloth. The brochures exclaimed that the "lame could walk" and "disorders disappear." Mitchell brought in enough money to buy a \$75,000 home and two El Dorado Cadillacs.

The NOI soldiers, the Fruit of Islam, from Chicago did not buy Mitchell's metamorphosis from proud, Black Muslim to prosperity preacher. They still believed that he ripped them off, so they followed him as he drove around Atlanta in his luxury Cadillac. Mitchell's quick exit from the Nation of Islam was suspicious and they wanted him to return the missing funds. This was the 1960's, and Mitchell knew that nobody crossed the Muslims and lived. Therefore, Mitchell hired bodyguards and equipped his home with an alarm system and burglar bars.

Mitchell had good reason to be afraid. In May 1969, three men assassinated Father Jone. In what appeared to be a Black Muslim hit.<sup>35</sup> Mitchell made a small fortune with his religious con games. His congregation figured out that they were being scammed and filed a lawsuit against Father Mitchell for fraud, but by 1978, he had left the city and abandoned his wife and children in Atlanta.

### Mitchell, AKA “Brother Love”

Mitchell turned up in Orlando, Florida and this time he was a street preacher named “Brother Love.” He trolled the inner-city neighborhoods preaching and giving hope to the hopeless. He preached a clean life-style free of alcohol and drugs.

### Mitchell, AKA “Brother Moses Israel”: Leader of the Black Hebrews

Mitchell began studying Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, and Hinduism. According to an author, Freedberg, Mitchell grew to believe the Bible contained secret messages that would reveal themselves with enough studious attention.<sup>36</sup> He plucked beliefs from the different ‘isms to cook up a new religion based on the Black Hebrew movement, which taught that Africans were the “true Jews” who’d descended from the lost tribes of Israel.<sup>37</sup> Mitchell embraced the Nation of Islam’s rejection of Christianity as a religion forced on their ancestors by their slave owners. Both the NOI and the Black Hebrews created black-centric religions to replace what they viewed as a white-centric Christianity. Mitchell’s opening statement to potential converts was “*Did you know that God is black?*” he’d ask them. “*Yes, it’s true! It’s the world’s best kept secret!*”<sup>38</sup> Mitchell changed his name to Brother Moses Israel. Like Moses, he was going to lead his flock to the Promised Land.

### Similarities between the Yahweh ben Yahweh Cult and the NOI

The teachings of Master Fard and Elijah Muhammad influenced the shaping of the Yahweh ben Yahweh cult in many ways. In fact, Mitchell’s Black Hebrews shared many similarities with the Nation of Islam, such as the following doctrines and practices. Black supremacy; white people are devils and deserve to die at the hands of blacks (the Death Angels). People who leave or disagree with the leader are labeled hypocrites and should be killed. They believed in UFO’s. Elijah Muhammad and Yahweh ben Yahweh both claimed to be “Messiah.” Both Elijah and Yahweh ben Yahweh attained “community leader” status by performing good works. Both took their organizations’ children out of the public school system and placed them in church-schools, called them Universities, and worked their twisted doctrines into the basic school curriculums. Members of both sects were expected to hawk merchandise on city streets. Both sects required its members to donate large portions of their income to the organization. Both Elijah Muhammad and Yahweh ben Yahweh expected their members to eat only one meal a day (Mitchell forced the one meal per day on members who lived inside his compound). Both sects believe that their religious founder was God incarnated.

The Black Hebrews were fervently devoted to making disciples and converts. They recruited their family, friends, and co-workers. They went door-to-door in the greater Miami area, canvassing the black communities of Overtown, Liberty City and Little Haiti. They traveled house-to-house, they were polite and sharply dressed. They greeted the residents with “Shalom,” the Hebrew word for peace.

Mitchell rose to prominence among African Americans in south Florida when he exploited a police-brutality case where four Miami police officers (three white and one Hispanic) were accused of killing a black insurance salesman. On an early morning, December 17, 1979, Miami-Dade police officers pursued 33-year-old Arthur McDuffie, who was driving a Kawasaki motorcycle when he refused to stop for committing multiple traffic violations. The pursuing officers witnessed McDuffie, who also had a suspended driver’s license, run a red light. The officers tried to pull him over, but he led police on an eight-minute, high-speed chase. Officers later claimed that McDuffie lost control of his motorcycle while making a left turn. He fled on foot but was soon captured by the officers. The officers said that McDuffie “resisted arrest” by fighting the arresting officers. The cops were able to subdue him, but by the end of the struggle he was unconscious and transported to a nearby hospital where he died four days later. The coroner's report concluded that Arthur McDuffie suffered multiple skull fractures after being hit by a blunt object. Later three other officers, who were promised with immunity from prosecution, testified that McDuffie was beaten unconscious with nightsticks and fists.

The four officers were indicted for manslaughter as well as tampering with or fabricating physical evidence. All four officers were suspended from the police department. Two other officers were suspended for fabricating evidence and charged as accessories to the crime. All six officers were fired less than a month later (however, they were later reinstated after they were acquitted).

### Hulon Mitchell, Jr., Yehweh ben Yahweh, God, son of God

An all-white jury acquitted the police officers and riots broke out in Miami. Eighteen people were dead and 417 were injured after three days of rioting. Shortly thereafter, Mitchell and members of his congregation visited the black neighborhoods and passed out tracts with



titles such as “Can I Protect My Child from Whitey’s Evil Influence?” and “White Americans are Kidnappers and Terrorists.” During this time, thousands of Miami’s residents turned out in droves to listen to Mitchell’s messages. He promised to take care of them and to protect them. He promised to feed and clothe them, and one day lead them out of racist America to the New Jerusalem. At this time, he renamed himself Yahweh ben Yahweh.

When Elijah Muhammad proclaimed himself to be the anointed messenger of Allah and enemy of Christians, his father, a Baptist preacher renounced Christianity and joined

Muhammad's racist cult. However, Hulon Mitchell Sr., the Pentecostal preacher, and the father of the man who called himself Yahweh ben Yahweh told the *St. Petersburg Times* in 1987, "I was there when he was born, holding his mama's hand. You can't get closer than that, and he is not the son of God."<sup>39</sup>

In a move typical of many cult leaders, Mitchell urged his Black Hebrews to cut off family and friends who were not part of his congregation. Members pooled their money, rented houses together, and home-schooled their children. They rejected the white man's standards of beauty. The men grew beards and the women stopped straightening their hair. Both sexes dressed modestly in loose, white robes. Like the Nation of Islam, they cut pork and other non-kosher foods out of their diets. They avoided alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. And like the Nation of Islam, they gave up their "slave names" and adopted the common last name "Israel" and chose Old Testament, Biblical first names like Solomon, Gideon, or Esther. Mitchell told his followers, "All who receive me shall be saved from immorality and death."<sup>40</sup>

### The Yahweh Temple of Love

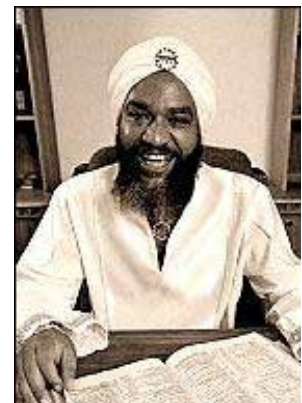
By October 1980, the Yahweh ben Yahweh cult bought a dilapidated warehouse in a black section of Miami called Liberty City. At this time, Mitchell had 150 members. The warehouse was huge and covered an entire city block. Restoration of the building became a community project. Members pitched in to fix it up. They painted the walls and restored the plumbing and electricity. They hung paintings of black Bible characters on the walls; a black Virgin Mary, a black Noah, a black Moses, and a black Last Supper. Taking a cue from Nation of Islam founder, Master Fard Muhammad, someone painted a futuristic city populated by black folks, complete with flying saucers. Beneath this painting, a caption said, "The black Christ is risen among us today to deliver us from white people."<sup>41</sup> Mitchell named the warehouse the "Yahweh Temple of Love," he told them they would live until the exodus to Jerusalem.

At one time, Five hundred people lived at the warehouse. Mitchell bought old buses from Dade County to house single men, who lived three or four to a bus. The busses also accommodated cult members from satellite churches who made pilgrimages to Liberty City for various "feasts" and celebrations.

### Hulon Mitchell, Jr., Community Leader

During this time Mitchell cultivated a public image as an eccentric, well-intentioned, community leader. He helped clean up decadent neighborhoods and became a father-figure to many of his followers. He founded a Hebrew University where children studied Hebrew and recited the names of chemical elements and countries.

He spoke to crowds of thousands around the country and **received the blessings of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.**<sup>42</sup> In 1987, the Miami Urban League gave Mr. Yahweh its highest humanitarian award, and its president pronounced him "an inspiration to



*the entire community.*” Mitchell, an egomaniac who apparently did not know the meaning of humility, once addressed a group of Miami business leaders and stated, *“Egypt has her pyramids. India has her Taj Mahal. France has her Eiffel Tower. Miami has the son of Yahweh. The world's greatest attraction is in your midst. I'm here.”*<sup>43</sup>

### Mitchell Exploited his Members for Financial Profit

Mitchell promised to provide for his followers. He sheltered 500 of his parishioners inside the warehouse-bunker. Mitchell had an economics degree and previous business experience from his stint as Father Mitchell in Atlanta. In Miami, he opened a food-distribution firm, a housing business, and a bottling company that brewed bottles of Yahweh beer, Yahweh wine and Yahweh soda-drinks that his followers were forbidden to taste.

Everyone in the Yahweh ben Yahweh sect was expected to contribute to the greater good of their religious community. Members took to the streets peddling Yahweh manufactured merchandise. They sold cassettes of Mitchell's sermons, Yahweh key rings, pencils and T-shirts. The Yahweh street hustlers worked 18-hour days and their sales were meticulously recorded. Defectors told police investigators that if a street peddler failed to meet a sales quota they were sent to the “prayer room,” better known as the “pain room.” They were forced by Temple guards to kneel for hours and if they got up without permission they were beaten with switches. Members who held jobs outside Yahweh businesses were required to turn over their entire paychecks to Mitchell. This was not enough. Mitchell, taking a page from Elijah Muhammad, cut back on food and allowed members to eat only one meal a day, usually consisting of beans. Some of the kids became emaciated and developed pot bellies.<sup>44</sup> Ironically, during this same time, the early 1980's, Americans were bombarded with media images of starving Ethiopian children. Charities and churches sent millions of dollars in food and aid to help alleviate the African famine. Even American and British Rock-n-Roll artists raised millions for the North African famine in their Live Aid concerts. However, Mitchell, worth millions, chose to withhold food and let the cult's children suffer from malnutrition.

Mitchell became a millionaire by starving and overworking the very people he promised to provide for and to protect. He invested his money in real estate. He purchased and renovated dilapidated apartment buildings in decaying neighborhoods. He became a fixture in the Miami business community. He was able to get loans and he bought more buildings, motels, apartment buildings, and grocery stores. His Temple of Love, Inc. was worth \$8.5 million and he was one of south Florida's most successful, black businessmen. He became a hero in the black community because the drug trade disappeared wherever he located his businesses.

### Miami's Yahweh ben Yahweh Day

In October 1990, Miami Mayor Xavier L. Suarez declared a Yahweh Ben Yahweh Day. Ironically, it was only a month later that Mitchell was indicted on federal racketeering and conspiracy charges. He was linked to 14 killings, two attempted slayings and the terrorist-style bombing of an entire block in Delray Beach, Florida, after residents had beat up some of his white-robed missionaries during a recruiting effort.<sup>45</sup> This was a source of great embarrassment for Miami's top politician. After Mitchell's arrest, Suarez told the relentless reporters who

hounded him for a response, *"Obviously I was wrong."*<sup>46</sup> Yahweh ben Yahweh went to trial in 1992. The sick, twisted details of life in the Yahweh ben Yahweh cult were revealed during this trial.

According to court documents, that as Mitchell's flock continued to grow, so did his demands of them. His sermons were recorded and introduced into court as evidence. He once asked from the pulpit, *"How many of you would die for Yahweh? Would you kill for Yahweh?"* The congregation answered back *"Yes, they would die for Yahweh. Yes, they would kill for Yahweh."*<sup>47</sup>

## Mitchell's Voracious Sexual Appetite

Mitchell controlled the clothing, food and sex lives of the people in his group. Twice married and divorced earlier in life, he bedded many of his young female followers. In an interview with the *New York Times*, with a wide smile, he told the reporter, *"We may be rabbis and nuns here, but we don't believe in celibacy."*<sup>48</sup>

No matter what religion or what profession, people will gossip. Everyone has a secret, and no matter how dark or embarrassing it is; there is that inherent desire to tell someone. It is human nature. Thus, it was hard to keep secrets in the cramped, living quarters of communal life. Cult members began discussing Mitchell's suspicious behavior. People had seen him slipping



into sisters' rooms in the middle of the night. Then there were the sex-education classes. Mitchell personally taught these classes. He required women and adolescent girls to attend the church's midwife classes. He taught them to shun modern medicine and have their babies at home like they did during Bible times. He forbade couples to use birth control. He wanted his girls to start having babies as soon as they reached puberty. He wanted his cult to grow. He encouraged his followers by preaching, *"Get it, brothers! ...Sisters, give it up....It's not about fallin' in love, it's about multiplyin.' ...have babies, and let's subdue and control the Earth."*<sup>49</sup>

Mitchell also held secret sex education classes for boys and men. He showed them pornographic movies of white women and bestiality to dissuade them from lusting and chasing after the white devils. He inspected the men and boys' genitalia and those who weren't circumcised he paid them \$100 if he could personally circumcise them. He circumcised them in the sanctuary without any anesthesia. Some of them passed out from the pain when he sliced off their foreskins.

## Mitchell, the Sexual Predator and Pedophile

All was not well at the Yahweh ben Yahweh compound. Men became jealous and upset about Mitchell's suspicious relationships with their wives, girlfriends, sisters, and daughters. Mitchell left the Nation of Islam over rumors of child molesting and financial improprieties. This time, rumors of Mitchell acting out as a sexual predator were confirmed. Mitchell singled out girls as young as ten-years-old. He told the girls that he was God's emissary and it was his job to teach them how to have sex. He showered them with gifts if they kept his secret. One of the girls he abused later told police investigators that the fifty-year-old, Mitchell had a three-way sexual encounter with her and another pubescent girl.<sup>50</sup>

At Mitchell's trial, several former female, cult members accused him of sexual abuse. One married woman testified that Mitchell forced her to have sex with him four days after she delivered a baby, tearing her stitches. One of Mitchell's biological sisters, Jean Solomon, who joined the cult and later defected, testified that he had raped her and another sister back in Oklahoma, and that he had molested one of his biological daughters.<sup>51</sup> Another man testified against Mitchell and he tearfully told the court, *"I saw my own children starving," he testified. "I was beaten. He (Mitchell) had sex with almost every woman in the temple, including my wife."*<sup>52</sup> Another young girl that he molested was the daughter of a woman who had followed him to Miami from Orlando. After years of sexual abuse, the daughter broke down and told her brothers, who already distrusted Mitchell. One of them went to the FBI and agreed to wear a bug. His surveillance provided valuable evidence that led to Mitchell and others being arrested and prosecuted.

## The Circle of Ten

Mitchell surrounded himself by a group of elite bodyguards called the Circle of Ten. Each was armed with a six-foot wooden staff. The Circle of Ten was also the cult's enforcers. They carried machetes as well as wooden staff. They practiced marching drills in front of the temple and closely watched people who crossed Mitchell. However, there was a more sinister group that formed within the Yahweh ben Yahweh cult. Mitchell preached, *"Whoever does not want me to rule over them, those are my enemies," he thundered. "And if you are my enemy, you must die. (You) must be killed...I want to see it...I want to see your head come off personally. I want to see the blood seep from your vein, you know that jugular vein. I want to see it." He made a gurgling noise. "you won't be able to see it seep, but you'll feel that sword when it bites your neck. I can't wait to see that. What a pleasure! All my enemies killed with a sword."*<sup>53</sup>

Again like the Nation of Islam, The Circle of Ten began murdering the cult's dissenters and hypocrites. Aston Green, a Jamaican-born, former Sunday school teacher was their first victim. He changed his name to Elijah Israel when he joined the cult, but reverted back to his birth name after he defected and renounced Mitchell's teachings. Afterwards, the Circle of Ten warned Green to stay away from the Temple of Love. However, he still had friends at the warehouse and frequently stopped by to visit them. He was only twenty-five when he was beheaded.

The next victims were cult defectors Carlton Carey and his wife Mildred Banks. Carey was formerly known as Yakim Israel. The Brotherhood broke into Carey's residence while they were out of their house. When they walked through the front door of their house four men wearing ski masks attacked them. They shot and killed Carey and shot Banks in the chest and slit her throat, but miraculously Banks survived the brutal attack. Although left for dead she managed to drag herself to the house of a neighbor who called for an ambulance and the police.

Meanwhile back at the Temple of Love, Mitchell and his congregation celebrated the deaths of the hypocrites. It was obvious who was behind the murders of the cult's defectors. The Miami police department began watching the Temple of Love closely. Plainclothes detectives in unmarked cars kept the warehouse under surveillance fulltime. The First Amendment protected the Temple from infiltration and a raid. Police administrators also had to worry about the political fallout and the repercussions of raiding an inner-city church in the heart of the black community. After all, Hulon Mitchell, Jr. was a community leader, a millionaire, and the city of Miami had even named a day named after him.

### The Brotherhood of Assassins

According to a federal indictment, Mitchell formed a secret inner circle, made up of tall, muscular, young men called the Brotherhood. The Brotherhood was a secret band of assassins, whom Mitchell called his "Death Angels." Applicants for membership into the Brotherhood were required to kill a white person and deliver to Mitchell a severed head, nose, finger, or ear as proof of the kill. According to court documents, between April and October, 1986, Mitchell's "Death Angels" randomly murdered several of Miami's white residents. Mitchell's chief enforcer was a former NFL football player.

Robert Rozier, stood a muscular, six-foot-four, and was a star football player at University of California-Berkley. He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals, but quit the team after playing only two games. He moved on to the Canadian Football League (CFL) and then signed on with the Oakland Raiders. He was cut from the team and he drifted around the country for several years before he moved to Florida and met the Black Hebrews of Miami.<sup>54</sup>



He joined the Yahweh ben Yahweh cult in 1981. By that time, he was nearly homeless and wanted in several states for committing several crimes such as forgery and writing bad checks. He was wanted by the Canadian authorities for writing \$50,000 in bad checks when he played for the CFL. He served six months in jail before he moved into the Temple of Love compound and took a job in Yahweh brewery. He changed his name to Neariah Israel.

In April of 1986, Rozier decided that he wanted to join the Brotherhood. He left the Yahweh Temple warehouse to hunt for "white devils." He changed into street clothes and hid a 12-inch Japanese Tanto knife inside his jacket. He went to Coconut Grove, one of Miami's

thriving gay neighborhoods. Rozier began stalking his victim, a drunken white man, who was stumbling down the street. Rozier followed him to his apartment and when he unlocked his door, the muscular Rozier forced his way in and stabbed the man to death. There was a second man in the apartment and Rozier killed him as well. He pondered about severing their heads but he was unsure how he could transport them to Mitchell without drawing attention to himself. He left the bodies intact and went back to the compound. The next day, Rozier showed Mitchell his bloody knife and told him the details of what he had done. Mitchell praised him and reminded him that the next time he killed a “white devil” he had to bring back a body part.

In Mitchell’s trial, the prosecution presented Robert Rozier as their star witness. Rozier admitted to killing seven people. He told the court how he and another Death Angel canvassed the streets of Miami hunting “white devils.” He said they came upon a man passed out in his car in the parking lot of a bar. Rozier and his partner murdered the man by stabbing him several times in the chest. They sliced off his ear, but dropped it in the dark. So they went back and cut off his other ear and took it back to Mitchell.<sup>55</sup> Several white men, homeless or alcoholics, turned up dead and mutilated in Miami. The police suspected it was the work of a deranged Vietnam veteran. They never suspected that the hits had been ordered by one of Miami’s most revered black, community leaders.

In 1986, the cult bought an apartment building in Opa-locka, a small city northwest of Miami. They evicted the residents, but several of the street-tough residents refused to leave. Mitchell sent in his enforcers to forcibly run the inhabitants out. Two of the residents defied him and both were shot to death. A witness told the police that Robert Rozier was the gunman. He was arrested and charged with murder on Halloween of 1986. He played it tough and refused to talk to the police investigators. He told the police he was 404 years-old and answered all questions with “Praise Yahweh.” Rozier later changed his mind when he was confronted with the mountain of evidence against him. He agreed to a deal with the prosecutor. He was sentenced to twenty-two-years in prison in exchange for his testimony against the cult. Rozier’s testimony gave a federal grand jury enough information to put together a 25-page indictment accusing Mitchell and 15 of his followers of 14 murders, extortion, and racketeering.

Eventually, Mitchell stood in court accused of multiple crimes, from murder and rape to operating a racketeering, criminal enterprise. More than a dozen former members testified against him. Even Mitchell’s sister, Jean Solomon testified that she and about 70 others once gathered in the Temple of Love to watch as Leonard Dupree, a former karate champion, was beaten to death with a tire iron. After Dupree was dead, Solomon said, Mitchell ordered her and other women to strike the body.<sup>56</sup>

Rozier, who was released from prison for the trial, told the court that he committed six murders in the name of Yahweh. He admitted that he stabbed a seventh man to death, but this murder had nothing to do with Mitchell. He killed a Cuban panhandler because he would not leave him alone.

In the case of *U.S. v. Yahweh Ben Yahweh* (792 F. Supp. 104), Mitchell took the witness stand and told the judge and jury that he was the “grand master of the celestial lodge, the architect of the universe.” He denied everything that the defectors had accused him of doing, all of the crimes and the exploitations. He denied it all. He said that his religion was about love and not death.

Juries are completely unpredictable. After a decade of police investigation, a year-and-a-half of court dates, and 160 witnesses, a racially mixed jury stunned the prosecution when they came back with the verdict. The accused sat in court attired in white turbans and white robes and listened attentively. The jury acquitted seven of Mitchell’s disciples and convicted seven of them for conspiracy. They declared a mistrial in the case of two members when they were unable to agree on a verdict. They found Mitchell guilty of conspiracy, but were deadlocked on the charge of racketeering. The judge sentenced the seven Yahweh cult members to 15-to-16 years in prison and he sentenced Mitchell to 18-years. Yahweh cultists were ecstatic and celebrated. His victims and the defectors were devastated. Mitchell and his Death Angels got away with murder.

Hulon Mitchell, Jr., a man who raped women, molested children, exploited, beat, and starved his members, and even ordered the deaths of several people, served a mere ten-years in prison; a small penalty for all the pain and misery that he caused. In August 2001, at age 65, he was released from prison and reentered society as a free man. His lawyers were eventually successful in ending the terms of his parole. On May 7, 2007, Yahweh ben Yahweh, died of prostate cancer at his home in Opa-Locka, Florida.<sup>57</sup>

Convicted Death Angel Robert Rozier expressed remorse about murdering for Ben Yahweh. Rozier was convicted of four murders, but given a reduced sentence for cooperating with authorities in Florida. He served ten-years and was given a new identity and enrolled in the federal witness protection program because he feared for his life that Yahweh cult members would kill him for being a Judas and betraying Mitchell.



Rozier said he was mesmerized into violence by Yahweh Ben Yahweh. Rozier said he was ordered to kill by “a very intelligent Hannibal Lecter” who claimed he was “God on planet Earth.”<sup>58</sup> “*It was hammered into us 15 to 16 hours a day about men being lynched and women being smashed down and babies being torn open,*” Rozier said. “*Isn't that how they trained the Marines, by dehumanizing the enemy?*”<sup>59</sup> On February 5, 1999, Rozier was arrested in Cameron Park, California, for passing a bad check. The police detectives uncovered Rozier's true identity and discovered that he had returned to old habits of committing petty crimes. He bounced a trail of 29 bogus checks totaling more than \$2,000. The prosecutor’s office charged him with a felony.<sup>60</sup>

After his arrest in Cameron Park, Rozier was indicted by New Jersey authorities in the 1984 stabbing death of a 52-year-old Newark man. The New Jersey killing was allegedly committed as a religious sacrifice for the Yahweh cult. His New Jersey attorney, Herb Waldman, said Rozier, then an elder for a Yahweh temple in Newark, witnessed the killing and identified

two assailants to authorities but didn't participate.<sup>61</sup> El Dorado County District Attorney Gary Lacy said he feared New Jersey authorities may have a hard time winning a 16-year-old murder case and declared that the best chance to put Rozier away is the bad check case in his county.<sup>62</sup> Rozier was convicted for passing bad checks and under California's third strike law and he was sentenced to serve twenty-five-years-to-life.

The Yahweh ben Yahweh cult still exists today. Several hundred members moved to Canada. The tactics for recruitment have changed. The cult currently has been active recruiting new members online, at [Yahwehbenyahweh.com](http://Yahwehbenyahweh.com) as well as personal Myspace pages.

### Whitney Houston and the Black Hebrew Israelites

Several Black Hebrew groups have existed in the United States since the late 1800's and early 1900's.<sup>63</sup> Their numbers are in the thousands. These groups identify themselves as Hebrews and not Jews and are rejected by mainstream Judaism. Black Hebrews believe that they are one of the lost tribes of Israel.

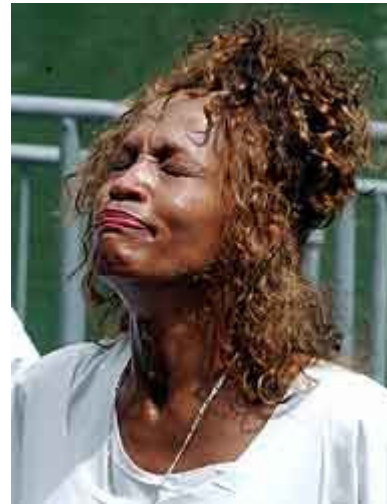
One branch of the Black Hebrews is led by Ben Carter a former south side Chicago resident and bus driver, who renamed himself "Ben Ammi Ben Israel." Carter founded The African Hebrews of Jerusalem (Black Hebrews) in 1966. It is unknown if Carter had contact with Mitchell or Elijah Muhammad, but he was from Chicago's south side during the height of the Nation of Islam's popularity.

Carter-Ben Israel claimed that the "Archangel Gabriel told him that many African Americans were descendants of the lost Israeli tribe of Judah." The Black Hebrews believe they are descended from Israelites who were expelled from Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. and then migrated for more than 1,000 years before reaching West Africa and later the United States as slaves. According to the teachings of their leader, Ben Ammi Ben Israel, the cruel chapters of their history were part of God's plan to lead them back to their homeland of Israel.<sup>64</sup>

Carter persuaded a group of African-Americans to follow him to Israel in 1967. He taught his flock that African-Americans descended from the biblical tribe of Judah and, therefore, that Israel is the land of their birthright. Carter-Ben Israel and his followers initially settled in Liberia for the purposes of cleansing themselves of bad habits. In 1969, a small group of the Black Hebrews Israelites left Liberia for Israel, with Carter-Ben Israel and the remaining original migrants arriving in Israel the following year. Public source estimates of the Black Hebrews Israelites community in Israel number between 1500 and 3000.<sup>65</sup> They settled in the desert community of Dimona, but did not receive permanent residence status until 2003.<sup>66</sup> Carter-Ben Israel has Black Hebrews Israelites communities in several cities such as Atlanta, St. Louis, Chicago, Charleston, Tallahassee, Washington, Houston and the island of St. Croix. They are said to have millions of dollars in real estate assets. The Black Hebrew Israelites are known throughout Israel as black supremacists. They practice polygamy (marriage to many women at once) and are vegetarians. Members who do not follow their practices are punished.<sup>67</sup>

The Black Hebrews appear to be peaceful. The Israeli government tolerates Carter-Ben Israel's community of Black Hebrews despite of anti-Semitic statements labeling Israeli-Jews as "imposters."<sup>68</sup> Despite promoting non-violence, members of Ben Israel's movement have shown a willingness to engage in criminal activity. For example, in 1986, Ben Israel and his chief American disciple, Prince Asiel Ben Israel (real name-Warren Brown) were convicted of trafficking stolen passports and securities and forging checks and savings bonds.<sup>69</sup> Prince Asiel was found guilty by a federal jury in Washington, D.C., of operating an international crime ring that trafficked in millions of dollars worth of stolen airline tickets and used bogus credit cards and worthless checks to purchase hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of merchandise. The convictions were overturned, and when prosecutors sought a retrial, Prince Asiel pleaded to a lesser charge.<sup>70</sup>

The talented Rhythm and Blues starlet, Whitney Houston, was raised Baptist, but exposed to Pentecost throughout her childhood.<sup>71</sup> Houston and husband Bobby Brown, infamous for his bad behavior, hooked up with the "Black Hebrews" in 2003 on a trip to Israel as Whitney was trying to find inspiration for an upcoming Christmas album. She and Brown made world news when they were baptized by the Black Hebrews in the Jordan River.<sup>72</sup>



Whitney and Bobby Brown first became acquainted with Carter-Ben Israel and the Black Hebrews at Louis Farrakhan's Million Man March in 1995. Carter (Ben Ammi Ben Israel) attended and Farrakhan cited Carter, who was in the audience, as "his brother." It was at the Million Man March that Whitney and Brown first met Carter.<sup>73</sup> Whitney has fought

her demons of drug and alcohol addiction. Prince Asiel (Warren Brown), the same man who pled guilty to running an international crime ring, visited Whitney Houston at the Miraval Resort in Arizona when she was trying get detoxified. He convinced her that the Black Hebrews could cure her of her addictions.<sup>74</sup> Houston, Brown, and their daughter stayed at the Black Hebrews community during her visit to Israel in 2003. However, at this time, it appears that Whitney's affiliation with Carter-Ben Israel and his Black Hebrews sect was a passing fancy.

The danger of the Black Hebrew movement, as well as the Nation of Islam, is that it leads Christians away from the basic teachings of Christ and poisons them with racist beliefs that humans are either blessed or cursed because they are born to a particular ethnic group. Xenophobic religious movements deny the most fundamental tenant of Christianity; that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son and whosoever believeth should not perish, but have everlasting life (St. John 3:16).

It has been noted that in many ways, Black Hebrew Israelite beliefs are a mirror image of the white supremacists' Christian Identity religion, which holds that northern Europeans, not the Jews, are God's true chosen people. The Christian Identity movement teaches that non-Caucasian peoples have no soul, therefore they can never earn God's favor or be saved.<sup>75</sup> Both the Christian Identity sect and the Black Hebrews see Jews as the children of the devil and accuse them of secretly controlling society through a Zionist agenda. Tom Metzger, leader of the White Aryan

Resistance, and associated with the racist skinhead movement, said this about the Black Hebrews, “*They're the black counterpart of us.*”<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 101

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Evanzz, Karl, *The Messenger: The Rise and Fall of Elijah Muhammad*, Pantheon Books, New York, 1999, p. 121

<sup>6</sup> “Death Rituals Revived in City by Voodoo Cult; Woman Bares Threat of Impending Double Human Sacrifice,” *Detroit Free Press*, January 19, 1937

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p. 122

<sup>8</sup> Barboza, Steven, *American Jihad: Islam after Malcolm X*, Doubleday New York, 1994, p. 115 f.

<sup>9</sup> Newton, Michael. *Holy Homicide: An Encyclopedia of Those Who Go With Their God...And Kill!* Loompanics Unlimited, Port Townsend, Washington, 1998, p. 195

<sup>10</sup> Lubinskas, James. “Remember the Zebra Killings,” *FrontPageMagazine.com* 8/30/2001, <http://www.frontpagemag.com/articles/Printable.aspx?GUID={465F5083-DB9A-4D11-83CF-5AC09C37D30A}> (retrieved 07-13-2008)

<sup>11</sup> White, p. 28

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> “Zebra Killings,” *San Francisco Examiner*, 1970

<sup>14</sup> White, p. 28

<sup>15</sup> Newton, p. 194

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, p. 195

<sup>18</sup> Lubinskas

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Howard, Clark. *Zebra*, Berkley Books, 1979. Scheers, Julia. “The Zebra Killers,” *Tru TV Crime Library: Criminal Minds and Methods*. [http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/notorious\\_murders/mass/zebra\\_murders/8.html](http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/notorious_murders/mass/zebra_murders/8.html) (retrieved 07-12-2008)

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

<sup>23</sup> Newton, Michael. “The Zebra Murders,” *Hunting Humans: An Encyclopedia of Modern Serial Killers*, Loompanics Unlimited, Port Townsend, WA, 1990, p. 348

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> Scheers, “The Zebra Killers”

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

<sup>27</sup> Ibid

<sup>28</sup> Ibid

<sup>29</sup> Ibid

<sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>31</sup> Schudel, Matt, “Yahweh Ben Yahweh; Led Violent Cult,” *Washington Post*, Thursday, May 10, 2007; p. B07, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/09/AR2007050902629.html> (retrieved 07-20-2008)

<sup>32</sup> Freedberg, Sydney P. *Brother Love: Murder, Money, and a Messiah*, New York: Pantheon Books, 1994. Scheers, Julia. “Yahweh ben Yahweh Cult,” *Tru TV Crime Library: Criminal Minds and Methods*.

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<sup>33</sup> Schudel

<sup>34</sup> Scheers, “Yahweh ben Yahweh Cult”

<sup>35</sup> Ibid

<sup>36</sup> Freedberg

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

<sup>38</sup> Ibid

<sup>39</sup> Schudel

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- <sup>41</sup> Scheers, "Yahweh ben Yahweh Cult"
- <sup>42</sup> Schudel
- <sup>43</sup> Ibid
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