

It Was Only a Dream, But It Woke Up the World

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech was one of the most powerful and crowd-captivating speeches anyone had ever heard. In a time where segregation, violence, and disorder ran high. Dr. King stood his ground on his firm belief of non-violent protest. In his speech he spoke of a country that would one day be equal and united. Dr. King constantly referred to his ideas as his dreams. He dreamed of a world where everyone lived in harmony and peace. King dreamed that blacks and whites, Jews and Gentiles could sit side by side at the table of brotherhood. In a time where segregation and inequality was commonplace. Dr. King continued to dream. He also dreamed that his four little children would one day be able to play with children their own age regardless of their race. King dreamed that his children would one day be judged by the content of their character rather than the color of their skin. In a time unfairness and uneasiness ruled. Dr. King continued to dream. King dreamed that one day this nation would rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. He dreamed America would rise above hatred, segregation, violence, injustice, hopelessness, helplessness, and selfishness. Though King encountered much ridicule and opposition to his beliefs, he continued to dream. Dr. King became the voice of every person who could not speak out against his or her injustices. In a time where injustices were masked and ignored. Dr. King continued to dream.

Dr. King became the wheels on the chariot of equality. He felt that a change was coming. Sadly, King would never live to see the day his dreams became a reality. Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Though Dr. King's assassination caused complete shock and despair, his dreams his dreams never died, and in fact, they are still alive today. Today, in 2002, people of all different backgrounds, races and nationalities live in unity. Today, in 2002, children of all races can go to the same schools together. Today, in 2002, segregation has been eliminated and those emotional wounds are beginning to heal. Today's generation, myself included, is blessed enough to experience a generation of infinite possibilities and endless opportunities. We must still keep Dr. King's dream alive.

I am a seventeen-year-old African American female at a predominately white school. Thankfully, I have never had to experience segregation. I have never had to enter a restaurant through the back door. I have never had to sit at the back of a city bus. I have never been denied the right to anything based on my race. All of these things I can experience thanks to the pioneers that led the Civil Rights movement and the long struggle for equality. For those pioneers, I have deep respect and admiration. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the main Civil Rights' leaders I respect because he never failed to stop dreaming. His dreams helped to bring about change in a seemingly unchangeable society. Dr. King may have felt that his ideas were mere dreams, but it was his dreams that woke up the world.

For anyone who wants to help bring about change, I encourage you to dream. When it seems as if no one in the world listens or understands, keep dreaming. When you feel that things will never change and you want to give up, keep dreaming. Even at times when you feel completely alone, never stop dreaming. Keep dreaming and trying until your dream becomes a reality. As Dr. King's dreams woke up the world, yours may too.