

Everlasting

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Today, we bask in the everlasting light and boundless love that he sheds on us which enables us to go out into the world and live freely and equally. “Every man is born free and equal” was a dishonest “truth” until the 1950’s when, out of these austere and dreaded times that existed, rose an intelligent and compassionate man, whose humane character I could only try to describe, for it would extend to no limit, who collapsed walls of hatred with his unwavering power of love and peace. Who rose out of times that I cannot even begin to comprehend, for because of him I am allowed to the luxuries and rights that we would have been denied then.

His everlasting legacy lives with us every time we walk out onto the street without hesitation or fear, or every time we walk into a place where society would gather without the feeling of complete suppression or alienation, and every time we talk to another person, being of a different race, skin color, or character, because if not for him my words would have already been deemed inferior before they had left my lips; but today, what I speak will be judged by the content and depth of meaning in my words and not for the person I look like.

Every time we share a moment of passion, discover shared interest or just simply enjoy each other’s company, it strengthens me that we are not bound by or can be separated by

anything but our strong friendships or personal dislikes and that no one can dictate who we can live, love, and laugh with, and it is important, for I believe that expression is the greatest gift that mankind has been given. It is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and his unfaltering stride in his successful strive for equality that gave us this liberty to freely express, and by doing so he brought humanity closer together than any man had ever done or attempted to do before.

So we will remember this great leader for centuries to come because you and I would be living an entirely different future that I wish not to imagine, for it would have been drowned in the infinite depths of the bleak shadows in a dark era; an era that would have still progressed into the new millennium and beyond if not for the courageous march for equality that he fore fronted fearlessly.

Today, we are living his Dream and will continue to live it for many generations to come. And he will live it with us, every day. In every heart.

End.

Binuri Lasanya Hapuarachchy

Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School