

Famous Quotes of Martin Luther King, Jr

Without love, benevolence becomes egotism

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobile rather than by the quality of our service and relationship to mankind.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' Why We Can't Wait 1963.

Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Book of Positive Quotations by John Cook

The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

Famous Quotes of Martin Luther King, Jr

If man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me. But it can keep him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

We have flown the air like birds and swum the sea like fishes, but have yet to learn the simple act of walking the earth like brothers.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail in Why We Can't Wait 1963.

The sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Address at Lincoln Memorial during March on Washington, 28 Aug 1963

We will speed the day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing ...Free at last, Free at last, Thank God Almighty, I'm free at last.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Address at Lincoln Memorial during March on Washington, 28 Aug 1963

>From the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire, let freedom ring. From the mighty mountains of New York, let freedom ring. From the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania, let freedom ring ... Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Address at Lincoln Memorial during March on Washington, 28 Aug 1963

Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' in Why We Can't Wait 1963.

Without justice, there can be no peace. He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Stride Towards Freedom

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail' in Why We Can't Wait, 1963

We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people.

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--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Minister, Civil Rights Leader

The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction....The chain reaction of evil -- hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars -- must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence in this world: it's nonviolence or nonexistence; that is where we are today.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

...when the history books are written in the future , somebody will have to say, "There lived a race of people, a black people, 'fleecy locks and black complexion', a people who had the moral courage to stand up for their rights. And thereby they injected a new meaning into the veins of history and of civilization.

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--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Either we go up together or we go down together. Let us develop a kind of dangerous unselfishness.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Just as nonviolence exposed the ugliness of racial injustice, so must the infection and sickness of poverty be exposed and healed - not only its symptoms, but its basic causes. This too will be a fierce struggle, but we must not be afraid to pursue the remedy, no matter how formidable the task.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgment. Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

For when people get caught up with that which is right and they are willing to sacrifice for it, there is no stopping point short of victory.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I still have a dream today that one day war will come to an end, that men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, that nations will no longer rise up against nations, neither will they study war any more.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, men other-centered can build up. I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned

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triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Let us hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all of their scintillating beauty.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We must combine the toughness of the serpent and the softness of the dove, a tough mind and a tender heart.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." "Never forget that God is able to lift you from fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope, and transform dark and desolate valleys into sunlit paths of inner peace.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

If the inexpressible cruelties of slavery could not stop us, the opposition that we now face surely will fail. We're going to win our freedom because both the sacred heritage of our nation and the eternal will of the almighty God are embodied in our echoing demands.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Being a Negro in America means trying to smile when you want to cry. It means trying to hold on to physical life amid psychological death. It means the pain of watching your children grow up with clouds of inferiority in their mental skies. It means having your legs cut off, and then being condemned for being a cripple. It means seeing your mother and father spiritually murdered by the slings and arrows of daily exploitation, and then being hated for being an orphan.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Just as nonviolence exposed the ugliness of racial injustice, so must the infection and sickness of poverty be exposed and healed - not only its symptoms, but its basic causes. This too will be a fierce struggle, but we must not be afraid to pursue the remedy, no matter how formidable the task.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination.
--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

And whenever men and women straighten their backs up, they are going somewhere because a man can't ride your back unless it is bent.
--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.
--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Many of the ugly pages of American history have been obscured and forgotten....America owes a debt of justice which it has only begun to pay. If it loses the will to finish or slackens in its determination, history will recall its crimes and the country that would be great will lack the most indispensable element of greatness--justice.
--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

All we say to America is be true to what you said on paper.
--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We are saying that we are determined to be men. We are determined to be people. We are saying that we are God's children. And that we don't have to live like we are forced to live.
--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation. And I want to thank God, once more, for allowing me to be here with you.
--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Now let me say that the next thing we must be concerned about if we are to have peace on earth and good will toward men is the nonviolent affirmation of the sacredness of all human life. Every man is somebody because he is a child of God.
--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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.

What I'm saying to you this morning is communism forgets that life is individual. Capitalism forgets that life is social. And the kingdom of brotherhood is found neither in the thesis of communism nor the antithesis of capitalism, but in a higher synthesis. It is found in a higher synthesis that combines the truths of both. Now, when I say questioning the whole society, it means ultimately coming to see that the problem of racism, the problem of economic exploitation, and the problem of war are all tied together. These are the triple evils that are interrelated.
--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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...I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The masses of people are rising up. And wherever they are assembled today, whether they are in Johannesburg, South Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; Accra, Ghana; Hew York City; Atlanta, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; or Memphis, Tennessee the cry is always the same -- "We want to be free."

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Let us be dissatisfied until that day when nobody will shout, "White Power!" when nobody will shout, "Black Power!" but everybody will talk about God's power and human power.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige and even his life for the welfare of others. In dangerous valleys and hazardous pathways, he will lift some bruised and beaten brother to a higher and more noble life.

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.