

BLACK CULTURE

MLK Is Man for the World

After Rosa Parks sat down so that we all could stand up, Martin Luther King, Jr. stood up and became not only our liberator or our drum major for justice, but also a man for the world, a world that was engulfed in the ignorance of racism and bigotry, a world not too receptive to a man leading a nation of people that had been chained by not only slavery, but chained as well be the loss of their motherland, Africa. Martin Luther King, Jr. did not just provide direction for African-Americans and other so-called minorities. This man gave us the courage to contextualize our destiny (freedom) by allowing us to feel his courage being poured into us through his visionary words, touching the core of our existence.

If all that Martin Luther King, Jr. means to you is just the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott, or his famous letter written within the cell of the Birmingham jail; if you can only glean from Martin Luther King's Jr.'s life that he was born in Atlanta, Georgia and that his Daddy, affectionately known as "Daddy King," a preacher himself; If all that you can comprehend is that Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a momentous speech in Washington, D.C. on a hot summer's day entitled, "I Have a Dream;" If that's all you know of Martin Luther King, Jr. then to your surprise, Martin Luther King, Jr. still speaks to you even though he is dead. Of course, this man did many other phenomenal acts and spoke and delivered many a speech, but whatever you remember or read about him, he is speaking and touching, and hopefully liberating your life.

Our former President, Jimmy Carter,

not too long ago, made a statement inferring that if it had not been for Martin Luther King, Jr. he would not have been President of this United States. Jimmy Carter has also said that Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves (even though this writer has serious reservations about that act); Martin Luther King., freed white folks. This man of the world was such a visionary that Martin Luther King, Jr. understood that one must be set free from the oppressor in order to set free the oppressed. That calls for sacrifice. At what price is one willing to pay to liberate the oppressor, and then will the oppressor be willing to totally reconcile with those who have been oppressed? No reconciliation, no liberation!

Well. . . Martin Luther King Jr. a man for the world, paid the ultimate price by giving of not only his life's breath, but by giving of his being as well.

Maybe Maya Angelo said something of such substance as she was being interviewed by Arsenio Hall on the Arsenio Hall show this month. This writer is of the conviction that if Martin Luther King, Jr. were alive today, he would agree that her words should be taken as a warning to all African-Americans. Maya Angelo said, "The danger of being cynical is that one goes from knowing nothing to believing nothing." Let us know that Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man for the world and let's believe and bring into fruition his dream for this world.

Pastor Earl Christopher Carroll, Mr. Div.
Hanes Memorial Christian Methodist Church

HISTORY MOMENTOES



Mrs. Gurtrude Johnson Williams, the late mother of Ebony Editor and Publisher John H. Johnson. The annual literary contest to discover untapped Black writing talent in America is named in honor of Mrs. Williams.

HISTORY MOMENTOES



Malcolm X talking with students at Tuskegee Institutet in Alabama, where he addressed several thousand students February 3, 1965

HISTORY MOMENTOES



Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Juanity Kidd Stout is the first Black woman to serve at that judicial level