

Former Activist Remembers Dr. Martin Luther King, 1963 March

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The chance to stand among the 250,000 people at the March on Washington in 1963 and witness Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his "I Have A Dream" speech, was "a great experience," according to Rembert Malloy.

Malloy, a retired surgeon at Bowman Gray Hospital, described the entire setting as a "marvelous, historical event," but his most memorable moment that day happened before the speech.

"The most impressive thing I

saw was when the bus rode into Washington about seven that morning," he said. "We saw the U.S. Army — an integrated group — with their guns drawn forcing Lincoln Rockwell and the American Nazi Party off the grounds. That was the most impressive thing to me."

Malloy feels that the country has made progress in eliminating racial tension and social inequality, but says King's dream has not fully become a reality.

"Not in it's full light," he said. "It was not unusual to see black kids and white kids playing together when I was growing up... but I

think (America) has made progress."

Malloy, who was active in the local civil-rights struggle, said that King would be disappointed with the condition of society today.

"He would have been a discouraged, despised person had he lived," Malloy said. "I think Clinton made a tremendous statement when he said King didn't envision black men killing black men. King's sacrifice was not for them to have the privilege to kill each other."

Malloy feels that although King's dream has not been fulfilled, he does feel that King carried out his divine mission.

King Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

On Dec. 10, 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway.

These five prestigious prizes, amounting to almost \$40,000 each, are awarded each year by the Nobel Foundation from the bequest of Alfred Bernhard Nobel for outstanding achievement in physics, chemistry, medicine and literature, and for the promotion of peace.

The following excerpts from Dr. King's acceptance speech express, in a way not otherwise possible, the greatness of the man and the depth of his commitment to freedom and justice:

Your Majesty, your Royal Highness, Mister President, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

I accept the Nobel Prize for peace at a moment when 22 million Negroes of the United States of America are engaged in a creative battle to end the long night of racial injustice. I accept this award in behalf of a civil rights movement which is moving with determination and a majestic scorn for risk and danger to establish a reign of freedom and a rule of justice.

I am mindful that only yesterday in Birmingham, our children, crying out for brotherhood, were answered with fire hoses, snarling dogs and even death. I am mindful that only yesterday in

Philadelphia, Miss., young people seeking to secure the right to vote were brutalized and murdered.

I am mindful that debilitating and grinding poverty afflicts my people and chains them to the lowest rung of the economic ladder.

Therefore, I must ask why this prize is awarded to a movement which is beleaguered and committed to unrelenting struggle; to a movement which has not won the very peace and brotherhood which is the essence of the Nobel Prize.

After contemplation, I conclude that this award which I received on behalf of that movement is profound recognition that non-violence is the answer to the crucial political and moral question of our time — the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression.

Civilization and violence are antithetical concepts. Negroes of the United States, following the people of India, have demonstrated that non-violence is not sterile passivity, but a powerful moral force which makes for social transformation. Sooner or later, all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood.

I accept this award today with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind. I refuse to accept the idea that the "isness" of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal "oughtness" that forever confronts him.

I refuse to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life which surrounds him. I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.

This faith can give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hanging clouds and our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, we will know that we are living in the creative turmoil of a genuine civilization struggling to be born.

Today I come to Oslo as a trustee, inspired and with renewed dedication to humanity. I accept this prize on behalf of all men who love peace and brotherhood.

"How Many Mountains Have Ya Climbed"

I see a group of boys skippin' School to hang out on the corner, and Within this illusion in my mind, I see Martin Luther King in The midst of the boys, and I can hear him speak:

"Hey, little boys, why aren't you In school today?" and one Replies with a sharpness, "None Of your business, old man."

And I see tears swell in his Eyes as he speaks:

"Oh, freedom, a taste so sweet That we forget the bitter harvest That sowed this fruit of knowledge.

Tell me, little boys, How many mountains have ya climbed— Because I know for myself I came Over a many Hills and up out Of a many valleys, and knowledge And faith were my wagon wheels.

"How many bloodstains on these Very sidewalks have been covered By time, the blood of people with Dreams just as mine.

"So it is my business, little boys, Because I and others like me Gave up all our yesterdays For your tomorrows.

"So tell me, little boys, how many Mountains have ya climbed? I crossed over a hilltop called Despair, and there I saw little boys And girls taunted and killed.

"I crawled up out of a valley called Sorrow, and at the top I found Hope of what tomorrow Would bring.

"So yes, little boys, it is My business Because by faith a many a Mountains I have climbed."

—The Philosopher of Tomorrow

REMEMBERING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



"Our Children may learn about heroes of the past. Our task is to make ourselves architects of the future."

Jomo Kenyatta
1st Prime Minister of Kenya

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