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Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a civil rights activist who wanted justice for all African Americans in the United States. He was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. His birth name was Michael, but his father changed it to Martin Luther. King did lots of things for the civil rights movement, such as holding protests and speeches. However, this makes me ask a few questions: Why did he choose to stand up for his people? Why couldn't he just be like everyone else and deal with the current situations? Well, he had always wanted equality and the same rights as whites, but what jump started his uprising was the Rosa Parks bus situation. This was in 1955 when an African-American woman named Rosa Parks had refused to give up her seat to a man who was white. During this time, blacks were required to give up their seats to whites on buses. King was very upset. This is what made him become a civil rights leader. Dr. King spent most of his life seeking justice and equality for African-Americans in the United States.

Dr. King won a Nobel Prize for his notorious speech "I Have a Dream". He gave his speech at the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington. The words he spoke that day touched many people's hearts and continue to do so. Unfortunately, on April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated at a hotel in Memphis, TN. Later on, police arrested James Earl Ray and charged him with the murder of King. To honor Dr. King, we now celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. day on the third Monday of January in the United States. After George Washington, King was the second person to

ever have his birthday celebrated as a national holiday. In 2011, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial was built in Washington D.C.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is giving his renowned speech "I Have a Dream". He is close towards the end of the speech when he quotes an old Negro spiritual.

"Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!" (Garrow, World Book Online)

Even though blacks were no longer slaves, Dr. King thought that they wouldn't be free until they were considered equal to other races by everyone. King believed that people should be judged "by the quality of their character, not the color of their skin."

I would not want to guess how Dr. King would define these words because his thoughts are true to him and I would not want to guess how he felt. In today's world, I see a lot of unfairness and people being treated unfairly because of their race, status, health choices, and beliefs. I also feel our country is very divided and people are angry with one another because of different opinions. I do see love in families, so that part is good. I sometimes wonder if Martin Luther King would be sad if he saw what was going on now. Martin Luther King was a very good man, and he opened a lot of people's eyes to the bad things that should be noticed in the world.

Works Cited

Garrow, David J. "King, Martin Luther, Jr." *World Book Student*, World Book, 2021,
<https://worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar300380>. Accessed 13 Dec.
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