



"I am happy to join with you today in what will **go down in history** as the greatest demonstration for **1.** _____ in the history of our nation.

And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a **2.** _____. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this **3.** _____ 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."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former **4.** _____ and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state **sweltering with the heat of** injustice, sweltering with the heat of **5.** _____, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

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 **6.** _____ but by the content of their character.

[...]

With this faith, we will be able to **hew** out of the mountain of despair a stone of **7.** _____. With this faith, we will be able to transform the **jangling discords** of our nation into a beautiful symphony of **8.** _____. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

[...]

And when this happens, when we allow freedom **9.** _____, 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 **10.** _____ 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!"*

Glossary

go down in history – passare alla storia

live out - vivere fino in fondo

hold - ritenere

swelter with the heat of - colmo dell'arroganza di

hew – strappare

jangling discords - stridenti discordie

hamlet - borgo

Almighty - Onnipotente

MARTIN LUTHER KING AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

From the 16th century slave traders took African men, women and children from their country to work on the large plantations of the southern states of America. The slaves were very cheap labour for the plantation owners. The slaves worked until they died. They were not free as they belonged to the plantation owners.

In 1865 slavery was abolished in all parts of the USA. By the 20th century, black Americans were no longer slaves, but they were not equal to American citizens. They could not vote; they could not sit on the same buses or in the same restaurants as white Americans or go to the same schools. They were second-class citizens. This changed with Martin Luther King.

Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929. He studied in Philadelphia where he became enthusiastic about Gandhi and his policy of non-violence.

In 1954, in Montgomery, where he was a minister in a small Negro church, he carried out the first non-violent demonstration against racial discrimination. This followed an incident when a black lady called Rosa Parks was arrested for sitting in a seat on a bus reserved for white people and refusing to give it to a white man. For a year black people walked, cycled or used cars instead of taking the bus. In 1956 segregation was declared illegal on buses in Alabama. Martin Luther King won his first battle.

Martin Luther king became famous for the Black Freedom Movement. He was arrested and imprisoned many times for his beliefs but he never stopped his campaign and continued to work for equality.

On August 28th 1963 Martin Luther king led a peaceful march to Washington. About two hundred and fifty thousand people sang, prayed and listened to his famous speech called *I Have a Dream*. In it he talked about his dreams for the future when black and white children would play together and slaves and slave owners would sit down to eat together. There was no violence during the demonstration.

Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. This great man was assassinated in Memphis in 1968. But before this happened he saw the abolition of racial discrimination laws in 1964-65.

NOTES

1. vivrà fino in fondo
2. colmo dell'arroganza di
3. scabri
4. tortuosi
5. strappare
6. stridenti discordie
7. borgo
8. Onnipotente

1. Decide if these statements are True or False. Correct the False ones

- By the 20th century black Americans did not work as slaves
- Rosa Parks was a black woman
- King died before the racial discrimination laws were abolished
- King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1963

2. Complete these notes about Martin Luther King

Born: 1 (year), 2 (place)

Influenced by 3

First demonstration: Rosa 4 ; for a year Blacks didn't use 5

Result of this demonstration: 6 Was made illegal on buses

August 28th 7: peaceful march to 8; speech called 9

1964: Martin Luther King won the 10

Death in 11 (date), 12 (how?)ù

3. Use your notes to talk about Martin Luther King

4. What about you?

1. Do you like Martin Luther King?
2. Why?
3. Would you like to meet Martin Luther King?
4. What would you tell him?
5. What would you ask him?
6. What would you do if you were Martin Luther King?