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My Skin & His Reality

When asked to reflect upon Dr. King's dream and how he would respond to it, I immediately turned to the skin I was created in and began to think about how far we have come since Dr. King's passing. I personally think that with all of the strife and hatred towards one another in this country, his dream, which became a reality in the hearts of so many, is a constant force that binds us together.

Addressing all of the killings of innocent black men in this country, I feel that Dr. King would have not judged both sides as we have seen plenty of the news and media do; but in turn, look at the issue from a different perspective. It is unfortunate that these things had to happen in our country at a time where we are so divided among ourselves. Dr. King stated that, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable...Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals" (King, 1958). What this quote shows is that the process of progress that is created among us humans is not merely prone to happen or is something that can be unavoidable. Progress and change will happen because there is always something that we are daily striving for. Every step, idea, thought, and action that can positively contribute to the goal of "justice for all" and not just some, requires sacrifice.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word sacrifice this way: the destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else. When we hear the word sacrifice, we think of something having to die in order for redemption to be made or received. In this case, the sacrifices that both Dr. King, and countless others who put aside their personal dilemmas to help a great cause to bring justice to the nation, helped to make initial steps in an ongoing movement.

The sacrifices of those who were innocently shot, have paved the way for millions to look back and reflect upon. I think that Dr. King, would say something along these lines, "With sacrifice, change is imminent. When sacrifices are realized, change is bound to happen. When sacrifices are valued at their cost, change will overtake nations". So you may be asking yourself, what is change? How can I see change? I personally think that again, even though us black people as an entirety are still being mistreated, misunderstood, and mistaken, we have come a long way in "holding hands" with our white counterparts which is change compared to the

My dream as a mixed African American scholar, is to change the world in my terms- through fashion, business, and education. I do not have dreams, I have aspirations and goals to complete. Through fashion, I want to make clothes for people who are not the "average" body type that is portrayed in the media. Making sure that everyone is loving themselves through articles of clothing that can adequately express who they are, is a goal that I have been working on since the age of thirteen. Through business and entrepreneurship, I want to make sure that

when I create my company, I want people who would otherwise be rejected by others, to work with me and not for me, to create change in our small part of the world. Education is a major part of our society especially in urban cities, where education is underfunded and not valued at it's worth. I think that educating students not on education, but in the social skills such as thinking interdependently with others from different backgrounds and cultures. Why? Because it is important to analyze your life and your impact on the world from other perspectives than just your own. Thank you Dr. King for being a hero not only to me, but to others who dare to dream and change the world.