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Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech hasn't always stood out to me. When I was first exposed to his dream of a world where people wouldn't be judged by the color of their skin and rather their character I wasn't aware of what it meant. You are taught in school that everyone should be treated how they deserve to be treated. You can't really decipher what discrimination is as a kid. As someone of mixed race I was exposed to family members of different colors so it never really occurred to me that they were being treated differently. My eyes were never exposed to this prejudice until later in my life, everyone was who they were based on their character. When he painted the vision of a future where black and white children could play together in peace, I believed that it had already happened. I was told back then that it wasn't a possibility due to the law dividing them. It is such a simple dream and I felt sad that my world wasn't how it has always been.

Getting older I felt both proud of my heritage and sometimes confused about it. I look different from some of my friends and even my family members. In some cases I felt like I wasn't black enough for certain people, and not white enough for others. But King's speech shows that my identity was far more important than fitting into a group. That there shouldn't even be groups in the first place. We are all the same in a sense.

Today I can see how King's dream is still not fully achieved and won't be for a very long time. While we have made progress since the civil rights movement such as having laws passed, schools being integrated, and even having a black president, there are still so many issues that need attention. The Black Lives Matter movement shows us a way of fighting to end these problems. It calls for an end to police brutality and racism implicated in our society. The deaths of people like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others show us that these issues are still present and causing problems. There are still times where people face racial prejudice just and it is sickening.

King's dream reminds us that even though things have improved there is still a lot of work that needs to be done over time. It wasn't just about the end of segregation but the end of inequality. It's about creating a society where our character is the only thing that should be recognized. I think that's something we still need to fight for.

I feel that King's dream is a sign of hope but also a piece of motivation that change needs to be established. As someone of mixed race, I can see the complexity of what he imagined. We live in a world where racial lines are implicated but also how they can be erased over time. People can come together to make a difference. That's what gives me hope. We are all still

working toward that dream, and it's up to us to carry it forward. It's far from over but we need to strive for it.