

"Today our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

Daydreaming

By Caroline Gannon

Always awake,
To the problems of this world.
But Martin's dreams still soared.
Daydreaming.

Soaring
Through the days
Filled with angry shouts.

Soaring
Through the nights
Filled with breaking glass,
Where Martin was too afraid to sleep.
Lying awake,
To the problems of our world.

Because Martin knew
That his dreams
Were right.

He dreamed that we would live
The true meaning
Of our creed.
He dreamed that we could sit
At a table of brotherhood.
He knew
That we could be
An oasis of freedom and justice.

He daydreamed,
Always awake
Never asleep to the cries of help
From his brothers and sisters.

Martin was put to death
With hatred.
But buried,
In a shroud of dreams.

This is not an angry poem

Change: the act or instance of making or becoming different
It is the necessary steps that keep us moving day in and day out
Pushing us away from ugly things towards something bright and beautiful
Like a butterfly coming out of a chrysalis and flying free in the open air
And when so many call it a blessing, others, why do they call it a challenge?

There is no denying that change is all around us
And there is no debating whether or not it is *good*
Because if it wasn't good, then the butterflies wouldn't be so pretty
And the geese would all hate their tropical vacation
And species would decrease until disappearance.

Change is such a powerful tool to those who utilize it
So why don't some people use it? Why wouldn't you?
Because believe it or not, even with all the prettiness it comes with
Change seems to be really really hard, and even scary at least for us
Because in a way change can also be unpredictable and suspenseful.

So, I guess the question really is, how do we do it? How do we change?
If you look at science, quite honestly, change is an accidental genetic mutation
It's not all like that, it can be an idea, a willingness to sacrifice to make better
Or in history, it is seen as a person standing up and being different
Weaving the path for everyone else to follow and grow and change themselves.

Because if you think about it, all those things in history
The things that today, people are shocked that they happened because they are so ugly
Well, those things might be happening now, if it weren't for change
Child labor, slavery, imagine someone hadn't stood up and said that's not right
Imagine the world now without change, un-advanced, sad, and ugly.

This is not an angry poem, but maybe it should be
Because I know the world sees it now, more ugliness laced in pretty things
Like history and science, I've got news for you, those aren't as pretty as you think
And I'm not saying you can change the world, just as I can't with just a single poem
I'm saying change is the simple act or instance of making or becoming different
And maybe we would actually get somewhere if everyone would just begin with that.

Again, I'm not saying that anything in this world is easy, at least not anything pretty
But in the perfect world, anyone would want to be a butterfly
And even though there is ugliness found here and clearly this isn't perfect
Shouldn't we all strive to be butterflies anyway?

-Lydia Geering

Kiera Glazer

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Changing the World

Change is to make something different than it would have been. Change works in two ways, transforming the world around you and your ability to adapt to new developments, by changing yourself. Martin Luther King Jr. did the more difficult of the two options, changing the world to make it better for others. He created a more just world through the compelling force of change, with the power of the people. Change is a challenge this leader was willing to take on head first for the benefit of the population and a cause he believed in. Changing the world is only possible if you believe you can do it.

The Civil Rights Movement was not all about forcing change forward at a fast pace, but also about adapting to different situations. The only constant in life is change, something Martin Luther King Jr. had to keep in mind. Being able to change tactics is a crucial skill every person has to master at some point in their life, not only leaders of historical movements. The world does not stop turning and changing for anyone, but you can direct that change through a combination of hard work and the power of will, but also by being able to accommodate to fit different scenarios. The only way to guarantee change is to take that leadership role into your own hands, like Martin Luther King Jr. did. Changing the world is difficult, but not impossible for those willing to try.

The Challenge of Change
Lok Ye Young
9th Grade
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21 days to break a habit,
But to change a mindset, I wonder, "How long?"
To learn, to open, and to never forget,
That we as humans all belong

No matter the race, the sex or age
Or our language, height, passions, or weight
We must make the change and turn the page,
To accept all people before it's too late.

To change a whole country,
And a person's mentality,
It requires patience, steadfastness, and unity--
In order to form a world of justice and equity.

Yes, we have made progress,
But we need to go further
And cancel out prejudice
With absolute fervor.

It is not only one dream anymore;
The dream and longing to let freedom ring.
It should be a dream of mine and yours,
We have a dream, and change we must bring.