

# A CALL TO ACTION!

By Donna Selby

Within humankind is an oppression, a feeling of limited freedom which creates anger and rage. Our people are tired of untruths and conspiracies. Our people have been squashed with discontent to the point where nature's core is moving us to make change. This discontent is not limited to the color of skin. It is much deeper than that. Our people want to see beyond the illusion in order to seek a better society. Many are waking up and are ready for change, a transformation of sorts to a society which thinks inclusively and holistically in order to heal to the core.

All it takes is one to get movement going, likened to the "One Hundredth Monkey" theory in which one monkey learns to wash his potato before eating it. After one hundred monkeys learn this new behavior, a telepathic communication carries the new knowledge to other monkeys on other islands. New behavior does not have to be observed to be understood, it is an awareness, an inner knowing. So, when change begins within one person, something much more than itself begin to happen. Change creates an invisible movement which divides and spreads throughout the land. The

thought itself births thought itself births other like minded thoughts.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s walk through life is a fine example of the alchemical tempering of consciousness being awakened toward destiny. I'm sure King had his moments of frustration and anger; love and fear; ups and downs, but the key to his success came with his open mind and heart. He saw not with two eyes but one, that life is bound by an invisible thread which links us all as One Heart.

The driving force which propelled King's movement had a special armament, not with weapons and supplies of war to fight the greatest battle, but, of a commonality of each person who resonated in the same light. "We did not hesitate," says King, "to call our movement an army. But it was a special army, with no supplies but its sincerity, no uniform but its determination, no arsenal except its faith, no currency but its conscience." Each person who joined in the peace rallies came because of an inner calling; and walked while listening to the beat of their own drum. Why was King's movement successful? The movement was much more than he himself. It was something deeper, like a branching out as likened to the arm of a tree which strengthens yet gives shade in the heat of challenge. There was a resonance, a collective knowing which had a brilliance beyond measure. King's voice became came ONE collective voice which resonated a natural ordering: a love of God, a love for oneself and a love of humanity.

Just as Dr King saw in his dream a rebirth of a new reality, we carry this seed of possibility within ourselves. How do we connect with this natural way of being? Simply by doing our inner work. The New Millennium signals a time of letting go of that which no longer serves us; and rebirth, into a new way of being. The natural plug which has kept us at bay has loosened, contractions begun, there is no going back. Let us all pray for one another, strength, courage, compassion, and dignity through this time of deep introspection.

Inner work is a natural process. It can be painful and wonderful at the same time but it takes total surrender. Surrender is not a point of weakness but a time of opening up to a power much greater than oneself. Look around and you will see for yourself, pain, which is evident on the faces of many of our brothers and sisters. This birthing is like none I have ever seen nor will see again. It is a cutting away of falsehood, a stripping of masks we hide behind. Some people will breeze through this process, many will not.

To die into a cause so that something greater can be born is our greatest challenge and responsibility. But, before we can die into something greater, we must first know ourselves and in doing so, will render our op-

pression and rage into a sweet cream like mothers' milk. The very act will be life altering and life giving.

Do not be afraid of change. We can't outrun change, it is inevitable. When a mountain blows we think it is disastrous but it is the very chrysalis which brings new life. Look at the caterpillar which goes within itself to become a beautiful butterfly. This is the force of nature's opposition at work and when nature moves our foundation, it has to go full circle for the end result to be seen.

King's movement was conceived as a psyche polarization of dark and light opposites which confronted and attracted one another. So the challenge for King and other visionary leaders like him is to understand the nature of oppositionary change as a conscious process of unfoldment as in a coming together of what our mind says vs. what our heart says. It is important to understand that opposition is built into the collective psyche of the universe.

The challenge and the test of our humankind will be to stand at the point of least resistance (zero point); to listen to a deeper truth of what is wanting to be birthed. Anything which is most valuable takes sacrifice. A pearl becomes a precious gift through

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Above: King addresses a crowd of nearly 250,000 Civil Rights marchers gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in the nation's capitol on August 27, 1963.  
Left: On March 28, 1968, King joined forces with co-worker Ralph Jackson (second from left), the Reverend Ralph Abernathy (right), and hundreds of others in Memphis for a demonstration in support of striking laborers.

## Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*



In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Multnomah County, the City of Portland, the Portland Development Commission, and the Port of Portland are committed to achieving greater economic and social equity in our contracting and procurement processes.



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