

Martin Luther King Jr. Embraced World Harmony

**His words of wisdom
still ring true today**

By **RON WEBER**
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Much of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy on life has been thoroughly studied by people from all walks of life — the rich or poor; the high school dropout or the highly educated; black people and non-black people.

One common thread is King's refusal to follow the paths of black leaders such as Malcolm X or Marcus Garvey, who believed in violence and independent black societies. On the contrary, King felt regardless of race, creed or color, we should all join together in harmonious interaction. As we look back at his life and death, many of his often repeated thoughts are still here in our minds, ever-reminding us that his philosophies are now more than ever cornerstones to the arch through which we can all walk to freedom.

On Jan. 15, 2003, Martin Luther King would have been 74 years old.

Commenting on cultural diversity at the Montgomery Airport in the mid 1960's King said:

As I stood with them and saw white and Negro, nuns and priests, ministers and rabbis, labor organizers, lawyers, doctors, housemaids and shop workers brimming with vitality and enjoying a rare comradeship, I knew I was seeing a microcosm of the mankind of the future in this moment of luminous and genuine brotherhood.

Dr. King truly believed that all mankind were brother and sister. A hope that he took to the South was that of a joint faith between those of all races:

With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to stand up for our freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

A devout Christian and minister, Dr. King visited India in the late 1950s for the purpose of furthering his knowledge of Mahatma Gandhi. The "Negro Gandhian" as he was called when he left to come home to the United States was deeply touched by

Gandhi's peaceful and non-violent approaches to conflict resolution.

King believed that in some marvelous way, God worked wonders through Gandhi. He believed Gandhi offered a method by which Christ's doctrine of Christian love could be applied to the problems of the people struggling to achieve justice and freedom.

After his return from India, King began letting his new ideals ring forth. He felt if he could even bring a single person to embrace peace and unity, his mission was a success:

Don't ever let someone pull you down so far as to hate them.

Hate begets hate, violence begets violence, and toughness begets a greater toughness. We must meet the forces of hate with the power of love, we must meet physical force with soul force.



We see men as Jews or Gentiles, Catholics or Protestants, Chinese or American, Negroes or whites. We fail to think of them as fellow human beings made from the same basic stuff as we, molded in the same divine image.

Dr. King noticed how broad diversity could be, touching us in all avenues of our lives:

When we arise in the morning, we go into the bathroom where we reach for a sponge, which is provided for us by a European. Then at the table we drink coffee, which is provided for us by a South American, or tea by a Chinese, or cocoa by a West African. Before we leave for job we are already beholden to more than half of the world.

As the Civil Rights Movement continued on, Dr. Martin Luther King would lead those who believed in him into long and tumultuous upward battle. But his stubborn refusal to payback those who hurt his

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"When evil men shout ugly words of hatred, good men must commit themselves to the glories of love. Where evil men would seek to perpetuate an unjust status quo, good men must seek to bring into being a real order of justice."
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

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