

It is difficult to capture the breadth and magnificence of Martin Luther King, Jr., without listening first-hand to his resonant voice, or studying his riveting sermons. Yet for all that, it is essential to understand how he used his time and embodied his dramatic life: He took every opportunity to use his words for both spiritual and political purposes. His politics were not dis-associated from his spirituality.

Dr. King's lofty, yet intimate, speeches invite us to become our better selves. His strong convictions inspire us not only to join him in his struggles, but also challenge us to enter a life of sacrifice, one in which our lives become an offering to something higher.

Both Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. King were ahead of their times, and their use of civil disobedience to launch and sustain a protest movement still seems startling, contradictory, and dangerous. (Gandhi was the first to promote "non-cooperation" as a strategy against gross injustice, such that some of the most under-resourced of all human beings toppled the richest and most powerful Empire of its time.) Both leaders included all kinds of people in their movement while addressing issues of local, national, and international importance. Neither leader avoided jail-time.

Like Gandhi, Dr. King understood that denouncing the vices of White Supremacy was not enough. For America's economic ethos has permeated everything from our media to our government institutions to our unconscious. It has been codified

and normalized within a country founded on genocide, torture, and the commodification of human beings. When Dr. King openly exposed Americans' hypocrisy and self-congratulatory stance, he knew he risked his life. When denouncing America's three evils--racism, poverty, and war-- Dr. King showed he was willing to sacrifice everything to end injustice.

Dr. King's restrained yet proactive strategy still has much to teach us, especially in light of America's greed and gross economic disparity, its systemic violence, its complacency and its addictions. Yet when writing about Dr. King, Tavis Smiley (2014) remonstrates that, "The values for which he lived and died -- justice for all, service to others, and a love that liberates, no matter what the cost -- are largely forgotten."

Is this true? Are we discarding Dr. King's values? And are we without any help to guide us?

Although it still remains largely unknown, another great teacher is entering onto the world stage to help us end injustice. His name is Maitreya, which means friend, brother, "bringer of joy". He is said to be the World Teacher for the age of Aquarius, and he is here with 14 other highly evolved individuals, who are called "Masters of Wisdom". (The Masters of Wisdom have mastered their bodies, their emotions and their minds.) Having mastered physical form itself, Maitreya can appear in any manner he wishes, but often takes on the form of a homeless person, as a means of

teaching us. (Benjamin Creme, the founder of Share International, states, "The basis of Maitreya's teaching is right relationship...[soon] we will come to understand that man, nature, and God are one." [1985])

While Maitreya and the Masters respect human free will, Maitreya questions Americans' general complacency. He stresses that there is but little time to address our world's most pressing problems. But he reminds us that we already have the solutions, we merely have to implement them. Maitreya states that we could put a stop to war and terrorism even today, merely by sharing the goods of the World. In fact, by sharing, we could

heal both humanity and the Planet, ushering in a new Age where no one lacks, where each one recognizes the divine spark in his/her neighbor, and in which no day is like the rest.

In fact, Maitreya's principles are the same as those stated so eloquently by Martin Luther King Jr., over 60 years ago:

The developed industrial nations of the world cannot remain secure islands of prosperity in a seething sea of poverty. The storm is rising against the privileged minority of the Earth, from which there is no shelter in isolation and armament. The storm will not abate until a just distribution of the fruits of the earth enables men everywhere to live in dignity and human decency.

Similarly, Maitreya underscores that America's lack of social justice --both at home and abroad-- threatens all of our lives, for we are all connected. Americans are starting to wake up that we are one human family! For there to be peace, there must be justice, and for there to be justice, there must be sharing and goodwill. Maitreya is the author of this idea.

To learn more about Maitreya, you can visit: share-international.org

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Peace is not merely a distant goal which we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.

Martin Luther King Jr.

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