

# **Advancing the Dream: A Nation of Freedom and Justice**

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Dear my Beloved future children,

Today, mother will tell a story and teach a lesson that you will forever hold dearly in your hearts. Fifty years ago, there was sadness and hatred burning among the folks of this great country of America. There were humans oppressed by other humans, only because Mother Nature had chosen to shape them with different complexion of black and white. In these chaotic days, rose a man whose hopes could spread and braveness could speak. His name was to be remembered until this day, Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. He enlightened us with his great dream of freedom and justice, and the world would have not been as tolerant had he not conveyed us to his wise words.

Fortunately, his dream has grown strongly and deeply through time. Today, we dream of freedom and justice for those who are judged by their religion, mistreated for their complexion, despised for their gender, and for those who love differently. However, dreaming is inadequate to change the world, my young children. Thus, mother believes in two fundamental courses of action that will advance the dream of freedom and justice.

The first step is learning to be tolerant. Why do we need to learn, my Dear? Because sadly, we were naturally born with the fear of dissimilarity, and we assumed that being different was a “freak” of nature. It is not easy to change a perspective that has already been there in our nature, but do know my children, that this fear grows strongly in those who have shallow minds and hardened hearts; that above the odds, we still have great human beings who have overcome their own fear to open their hearts and influence the world. Mother believes that a shallow mind can be broadened, and a hardened heart can be softened. Mother believes that we can all learn to tolerate and accept one’s differences. Everyday we treat people the way that we want to be treated, we change something. Everyday we start looking inside one’s goodness instead of their appearances, we learn something. Everyday we learn more about our colleagues and our

friends's origin, listen to what they have been through and what they believe, we understand more. Everyday we open our willingness to understand one's situation instead of being judgemental, we tolerate more. Mother believes that it will never be too soon to start or too late to change ourselves; that we can all make this world a better place for everyone, regardless of who they are, where they come from or what they do, my beloved children.

The second course of action that comes to mind is when I look at you, my dear children. As adults, we are so busy worrying about the outcomes of life that we forget that you are the embodiment of a better world. We forget to plant the seed of hopes and dreams in the young generation. We forget that you have the purest souls in the universe that have the capacity to forgive, to tolerate, and to love everyone unconditionally.

Someday, if you hesitate when you first see a little black boy, mother will tell you not to be afraid because he is as genuinely special as you are, my Dear. This world was beautifully created with the blue of the ocean, red of the sun, green of the trees and white of the clouds; and we, too, were created with different colors of complexion to comprehensively embrace this beauty once more. Will you look into his soul and not his dark complexion, my Dear?

Someday, my Darling, when you ask why is that little girl wearing a scarf around her head, mother will tell you not to feel so strangely. If praying every night before bed time means showing our love to God, and if going to church every Sunday is the right thing to do, then her wearing a scarf is no more than an act of pride and love for her God. And if our God teaches us to tell no lies, her God will teach her to speak faithfully; if our God teaches us to treat people decently, her God will teach her to love people dearly. Do you spot any differences between us now, my Dear?

Someday, when you are old enough to fall in love, do not be afraid or uncertain of your own feelings. I will tell you, my children, that whether you love a boy or a girl, it would still be the best thing that ever happened. I will tell you that no matter how hard it gets, do not hold back your greatest gift on earth, and that is love.

Someday, my beloved children, you will never stop reminding yourself and the people around you that it is not about our complexion, our religions, our loves, our past or our appearance that speak of us. It is our hearts, our minds, our souls and our actions that speak loudest.