

## **More Than a Dreamer?**

**Rev. Crystal Bujol Speaks at the Universal Unitarian Church**  
Written for the Dr. King Birthday Celebration at the UUFVB Fellowship 1-16-2011 ©

Hello, my African Sisters!

Aha, I don't think I heard many responses from you, my sisters ... and I know I only heard one or two "hello's" back from my brothers. Now, you know we all have a couple of things in common, at least that is what MIT says! Humankind, as we know it today, began on the African continent. So let me try this again. Hello! My African sisters! Oh, that is sooooo much better. But, still lacking that fabulous male voice. I am not sure about this, but some of the physicians, the medical doctors and research scientists tell me that we all have a belly button. Those of you who have such a thing received an "X" chromosome from your mother. That makes you my half-sister. That's what they say, but I don't have proof of this. Yet, I am going to once again say, "Hello! My African sisters!"

Oh, sooooo much better!

Of course, that is not what I came to speak about today, but that absence of the voice of the Divine Feminine does play a part in my message.

Sometimes it seems that the whole European world conspires to denigrate everything feminine, everything black, and everything that stands for peace and non-violence.

What this world needs is more female Yin energy, more appreciation of love and compassion and happiness. We need more understanding in our lives to help balance the more war-like yang energy. I find that here, at my church, this Unitarian Universalist congregation in Vero Beach ... and I am grateful for that. It helps me to keep my war-like energy in check.

That is very important to me because when I hear or read about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. being reduced to just a dreamer, I am offended. Why? I'll tell you why. When children who are today learning about Dr. Martin Luther King as a dreamer grow up, they will become teachers and teach the next generation that Dr. King was only a dreamer. Why is that disturbing to me? Listen to these definitions of a dreamer according to the World English Dictionary:

- (1) a dreamer is a person who dreams;
- (2) a person who lives in a world of fantasy; one who is impractical and unrealistic and
- (3) a person whose ideas or projects are considered audacious or highly speculative; -- and get this

...according to this same dictionary, it is considered an archaic notion that a dreamer is a prophet and a visionary.

Based on these definitions I ask the question – was Dr. King more than a dreamer? More than an impractical, unrealistic person, whose ideas or projects are audacious or highly speculative?

Today, we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his many contributions to inspire and lift the consciousness of those who could only dream of social justice to becoming active participants on its behalf.

His insistence on non-violence, his persistence in fighting for equality, fairness, and justice for all humankind, and his powerful, enduring speeches are among his most noteworthy legacies.

However, in some circles, the power of his speeches is so watered-down that far too many folks only remember his “I Have a Dream” speech.

Outside the UU Fellowship there is a movement suggesting that the only idea he left for us to ponder is that he had a dream. Through the years, this mindset could make one think that his formula for social justice had become outmoded and insignificant. That would be a travesty.

Dr. King and the timeless reality of his lessons for life could be forgotten instead of remembering Dr. King as a great and noble example for all people.

*Floyd W. Hayes, III, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science at the Johns Hopkins University makes this statement:*

*“One example of an African American personality who has been trivialized is Martin Luther King, who has been reduced to that of a dreamer. Most young people, if they know anything at all about King, have heard of his “I Have a Dream” speech.”*

... And that’s about all they know.

While this trivialization is not common among UU circles, a reverent look at King’s formula for his dreaming is worth exploring. Today, as a storyteller, I intend to reveal some of the elements of dreaming that King used in getting to his mountain top speech.

There are clear and definite technical steps he used to accomplish his goals.

1. He had a clear vision of his goal.  
NEAL Speaks: *Let’s get on the bus and sit wherever we want to sit*
2. He designed a mantra to keep his mind on target  
NEAL Speaks: *non-violence*
3. He stuck to each objective until he reached his goal.  
NEAL Speaks: *Supreme Court to rules that bus segregation is illegal*

4. He didn't try to do everything at once – one goal at a time.  
NEAL Speaks – [NEXT???](#)

He stuck to his promise of non-violence. He, he graduated from this incarnation. He graduated summa cum laude ... with highest honors ... some of them being:

- We have a national holiday in his name.
- His birthplace at 501 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, is a US National Historic Site.
- Atlanta is also the home of the MLK Center near the Ebenezer Baptist Church.
- A Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, which will feature a large statue of him and a wall of quotations from his writings and speeches, will be unveiled on August 28<sup>th</sup> on the National Mall in Washington D.C. Countless buildings, highways and streets bear his name.
- This man is among the greatest social activists of our – or any -- time. He absolutely deserves to be honored. I am very proud that my church agrees – and celebrates this peaceful warrior, and not just on M. L. King Sunday!

More than that, I am especially honored to speak to you today in celebration of his birthday, and I have invited some friends to help me honor him today as they assist me in delivering this sermon:

Paul Amaru as Dr. King going before Ma'at.  
Noel Stannard as Dr. King's voice from afar.  
Leslie Bilotta as Ma'at  
And Pete Kersey as "My Man Friday!"

I also want to thank our pastor, Rev. Scott Alexander and the UUFVB Worship Committee for inviting me to speak today. As I said, it is an honor.

You will find printed in your bulletin a quote from Shakespeare that fills my heart with love and helps me know that it is not the whole European world that is conspiring to conquer the world with denigration of the other. This great poet says ...

"And if he should die,  
Take his body, and cut it into little stars.  
He will make the face of heaven so fine  
That all the world will be in love with night"

With these words from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Dr. Martin Luther King began his eulogy of Rev. James Reeb, a Unitarian Minister, who was the first to fall after coming to Selma to walk to Montgomery protest march.

If King used these words to honor someone else, I believe he would appreciate having them said about him. Therefore, I salute Dr. King by saying ... “When he died, we took his body and cut it into little stars. He has made the face of heaven so fine that all the world can be in love with night.”

That is my dream.

Right now, I invite you to join me in reviewing some of his dreaming.  
I ask you to think about whether these are the results of someone who is just a dreamer?  
Is he a person who lives in a world of fantasy?  
Is he really impractical and unrealistic?  
Are his ideas or projects really audacious or highly speculative?

Notice the clarity with which he describes his dreams.

So clear that you can easily envision the completion of the goal.

His goals can actually be mantras. For example:

Neal speaks from the audience:

1. Let's get on the bus and sit wherever we want to sit
2. Let's have civil rights for all people.
3. Let's all have the right to vote.
4. Let's have lunch together at the drugstore.
5. Let's ride the bus together from state to state.
6. Let's win the war against segregation in the south
7. Oh yes, I'll go to jail for what I believe.
8. Let's have a freedom march in Detroit
9. Let's have a freedom march in Washington, D. C.

All of these things he accomplished before his  
*I Have a Dream* Speech.

He accomplished all these goals before he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

All these impractical, fanciful, non-realistic dreams came true before he reached the age of 35!

How did he do all of this before he turned 35? How did he become so smart, wise and brilliant? So charismatic? So confident, strong, assertive? How did he become so protective, resourceful, straight talking and decisive? And what inspired him to use his strength to improve the lives of others? What is it that ignited his passion to become such a magnanimous hero? So inspiring to others?

The answer is another element of his dream come true technique. Remember from the story I shared with you earlier ... that in his *Long ago Kemet Life with Ma'at ...* there were all those wise ones who were given to him as teachers for personal development? After embodying guides such as those sages, how could he not become the best he *dreamt* he could be?

He graduated at the top of his class as a highly evolved type eight in the Enneagram school of thought. He discovered how to use his passion of anger and turn it into fuel for non-violent action. He opened his mind and heart to accomplish his chosen mission at the expense of having control over his own life. It required will power and discipline. Discipline over anger, fear, and frustration, the desire to be vindictive, or get involved in physical retaliation.

He used this incarnation to be one of Ma'at's representatives, which we call gurus, to show us how to be in control of our life and our destiny.

We can easily create a report card for this incarnation of Dr. King. If you agree that he was successful in leaving a committed life behind, help me give him a grade for this classroom we call life. As I read these accomplishments, if you think they were significant, you can say: "Check," or "Yes," or even "Amen!" You choose, but please say something to let me know you agree. OK, here are the subjects for which we will give him a grade:

- He earned a Doctorate in Systematic Theology from Boston University.
- His work caused the Supreme Court to rule that bus segregation is illegal, ensuring victory for that boycott.
- He established the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to fight segregation and to achieve civil rights.
- Recovered from a near death experience in Harlem which didn't stop his forward motion for a single moment, other than to catch a well-deserved respite at the hospital and good wishes from the public!
- He met with President Dwight Eisenhower to discuss problems affecting black Americans. He was always meeting with Presidents of this country.
- He was jailed and released after intervention by President John F. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy
- His work caused the U. S. Supreme Court to outlaw segregation in interstate transportation, which included all people being allowed to sit together and ride the bus, as well as boats, trains, and airplanes from one state to another.

- His work caused a *treaty* to be established. It was named The Birmingham Agreement stating that the stores, restaurants, and schools would be desegregated and hiring of blacks implemented. This proved to be the turning point in the war to end segregation in the South.
- He led the largest civil rights demonstration in history with over 250,000 people in attendance, where he delivered his famous I Have a Dream speech.
- King attended the signing ceremony of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was a direct result of his work.
- He earned the coveted Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded to him at age 35 – the youngest person to be awarded that prize for Peace ... ever!

Another African American had been awarded this prize back in 1950 for the work he did in bring peace to the Mid East. Remember Ralph Bunche? However, Dr. King was the youngest person to receive that prize ... ever! Age 35!

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His influence on my life and yours and the lives of American people and people everywhere did not stop there. He went on to meet other presidents to get support for his new goals. He used his influence and his very well organized machine of people, from all walks of life and lifestyles, to focus on socioeconomic problems.

He stated new goals:

Neal Speaks:

10. Let's march against fear through the south.
11. Let's change the living conditions of the poor.
12. Let's change the living conditions of the poor in Chicago.
13. Let's end discrimination in housing, employment and schools in Chicago.
14. Hey! While we're at it, let's create a Poor People's Campaign focusing on jobs and freedom for the poor of all races.

And then ... and then ... and then ...

Neal speaks:

15. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had the audacity to ... not ask, but DEMAND
  - (a) A \$12 billion Economic Bill of Rights guaranteeing employment to the able- bodied,
  - (b) Give income to those unable to work,
  - (c) And put an end to housing discrimination.

That is when the power brokers began to think they had to end Dr. Martin Luther King's dreams. People believed in them. They believed in him. More fearful for them than that, was the realization that ...

The people believed in themselves!  
They really thought they could accomplish  
Not only his "dreams!"  
... But also, their own.

In the little time he had left to live in the body in this incarnation, he shared more of his dreams – his goals – his visions:

Neal Speaks, one more time”

15. Let's have a freedom walk in Detroit.
16. Let's march to support the sanitation workers on strike in Memphis Tennessee.
17. Let's end the war in Viet Nam ...

Viet Nam??? Viet Nam!!! Now he is meddling. He wants to stop the war-machine? End the profits that war brings to those who run that machine? Stop us from clearing street of all those young minority men (and women) and other mis-fits whom we can easily send to the front-line? Bring all those veteran's home and give them jobs ... "what" jobs? There aren't any jobs for them.

That's when the dreaming came to a halt. It was 6:01, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. "They" thought it would end his shenanigans. However, "their" actions turned him into an eternal martyr.

But don't linger on the thought of his death too long ... He simply stepped into Ma'at's chambers. Upon the weighing of his heart, he said ...

Paul Amaru reads from Dr. King's last speech  
... "I've Seen the Promised Land Speech."

I have many choices of how I want to express my love for humanity. This next time I would turn to the Almighty, and say, "If you allow me to live just a few years in the second half of the twentieth century, I will be happy." Now that's a strange statement to make, because the world is all messed up. The nation is sick. Trouble is in the land. Confusion all around. That's a strange statement. But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough, can you see the stars.

I see God working in this period of the twentieth century in a way that men, in some strange way, are responding — something is happening in our world. The masses of people are rising up. And wherever they are assembled today, whether they are in Johannesburg, South Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; Accra, Ghana; New York City; Atlanta, Georgia; Jackson, Mississippi; or Memphis, Tennessee, or *Vero Beach* — the cry is always the same — "We want to be free."

Men, for years now, have been talking about war and peace. But now, no longer can they just talk about it. Survival demands that we grapple with this issue. It is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence in this world; it's nonviolence or nonexistence. I want to be a part of the changes we will make using nonviolence as our most effective tool. I want to serve as a drum major in the social justice parade.

When I die, I want you to say that I was a drum major for justice. **(Choir - Amen)** Say that I was a drum major for peace. **(Choir - Yes)** I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter. **(Choir - Yes)** I won't have any money to leave behind. I won't have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind. **(Choir - Amen)** And that's all I want to say.

Yes, he has graduated. Heaven only knows where he is, if he is a he, what he or she is doing in the world, or which world he or she is organizing people or if he or she is still serving in the same way ... of if he or she is simply planet hopping or captain of Star Trek Thirty-Nine. Whatever Dr. King is doing, there are some facts about what we did after his heart was weighed to keep his dreams alive:

Yes, we cut his body into little stars – and many of them are sitting here in the audience.

Is it 10:40 a.m.??? Continue or go to the end

- For 15 years, we worked together until his birthday became a National Holiday, not a black holiday, but a people's holiday.
- In 1968, Michigan Congressman John Conyers Jr., first introduced the legislation and 3 million people signed a petition supporting a King Holiday.
- That first bill lost by five votes then sat in Congress for 8 years.
- Presidents Jimmy Carter and Lyndon Johnson teamed up and jointly vowed to support this holiday.
- Coretta Scott King testified before Congress several times, mobilized governors, mayors and city council members across the nation to sign her petition.
- The second time she presented the petition to Congress it had 6 million signatures. That time the vote passed with a count of 338 to 90.
- President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law in 1983.
- However, no matter how long it took the people and power brokers to agree to this holiday, this holy day, neither local government or any form of government in this country can remove his star from the heavens. We put it there and we will keep it there.

Today, I have shared with you why I know Dr. King is so much more than a dreamer. I have also shared with you my personal story that he did not do all of his work in one incarnation.

So I ask you this question, one more time: Was he more than a dreamer? And, how about you? Are you more than a dreamer?

I am not campaigning for you, our members and friends to join our many social justice committees here at UUFVB, but if your mission in life is to serve people and you don't know how to do that, we can help you if you choose to join one of the 17 on-going programs we have to offer. When you leave here today, go out and have coffee in the

fellowship hall and stop at the Social Justice table. There will be at least one person and maybe more to give you a brochure and information about the work we do here, as a congregation.

More importantly, I ask you to celebrate this significant birthday and this magnificent man in your daily life.

If you make a mistake, if you mis-step, if you mis-speak, if you forget something important, if you don't do something you should, ought, or supposed to do ...

You don't have to wallow in that moment of time for too long.

Let your inner Ma'at weigh your heart, send you to school for a minute or how ever long you think you need to anguish over that error and quickly get back into life and accomplishing your dreams ... or changing your dreams ... or enjoying your dreams.

And when you finish a dream and manifest a desired result, before you embark on the next one, take time to party!

Have a celebration!

Let us, your church family or others know that you had a dream and completed it.

Keep tabs on your dreams and brag about them, even if only to yourself!

Toot your own horn.

Shout it from the highest mountain top that you had a dream and it is now a reality.

You don't have to wait for someone else to write your biography, give yourself a report card or a Peace Prize and sign your name to it!

What you write, what you say, what you shout out about your successes might become, for all we know, some of that material Ma'at gives to her newcomers in her school for the soul.

"And when you die, we will take your body and cut it into little stars. And your light will help make the face of heaven so fine that all the world can grow to be in love with night"

▲ end