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We Need to Share a Dream

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We Need to Share a Dream

Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"I have a dream that one day my fellow Black Americans will open their eyes to the world filled with self-hatred that they themselves have perpetuated throughout the years. I also have a dream that tomorrow the sun will rise on a new generation of prosperous young black people will emerge from the shadows that once consumed our future and rise up against the stereotype. We fail to realize that the foundation laid down for us by the great freedom fighters in our past is crumbling right below our feet and will continue to do so until we see that we are a part of the problem. As a race, we struggle with the concept of our own fight for freedom and equality; and I am not referring to freedom from "the Man" as is usually presumed. I am, however, referring to freedom from the mental blocks that we and society have put in place and that our youth grow up believing. In the year 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. whilst giving his *I Have a Dream* speech said, "We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force." These are noble words that seem simple to follow and live by, but yet we fail to do so; and it is not because we are unable, but because we are unwilling. We are willing to accept that we are not good enough to achieve the same goals as the White community due to the color of our skin and while this may not necessarily encompass every racial situation, this is one prominent problem that needs to be addressed."



Candace Benjamin

We Need to Share a Dream

I have a dream that one day my fellow Black Americans will open their eyes to the world filled with self-hatred that they themselves have perpetuated throughout the years. I also have a dream that tomorrow the sun will rise on a new generation of prosperous young black people will emerge from the shadows that once consumed our future and rise up against the stereotype. We fail to realize that the foundation laid down for us by the great freedom fighters in our past is crumbling right below our feet and will continue to do so until we see that we are a part of the problem. As a race, we struggle with the concept of our own fight for freedom and equality; and I am not referring to freedom from “the Man” as is usually presumed. I am, however, referring to freedom from the mental blocks that we and society have put in place and that our youth grow up believing. In the year 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. whilst giving his *I Have a Dream* speech said, **“We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.”** These are noble words that seem simple to follow and live by, but yet we fail to do so; and it is not because we are unable, but because we are unwilling. We are willing to accept that we are not good enough to achieve the same goals as the White community due to the color of our skin and while this may not necessarily encompass every racial situation, this is one prominent problem that needs to be addressed.

We have been on a quest to attain true equality for centuries, but yet we disprove our worth when it comes to this matter on a daily basis; we make ourselves appear less human. The stereotype pertaining to black males and increased crime rates only continues to exist because we let it exist. Instead of raising our young men to be productive members of society we continue to show them that it's okay to take the "easy" way out and take what they need from someone else instead of earning it the honest way. And while I understand that there are extenuating circumstances where Black men do work for what they have although it may not amount to much and an alternative is sought out, I believe there is always a better way than crime and violence. In the case of our young women, looking for a spouse to "hold you down" is not always the best solution. We as women can do so much more for ourselves than to depend on someone else to take care of us. If we can't uplift ourselves, no one else will.

As a race, a society and a nation we need to help each other instead of bringing each other down. Instead of perpetuating the idea that our youth will never amount to as much as their Caucasian companions, we should teach them that the color of your skin does not determine the content of your character. Teach them that darker skin does not make you less of a person, instead inspire them to reach their full potential. Show them that it is okay to be Black and successful and most importantly it is okay to follow your dreams. I know not one person that wants to continue living in a hostile world so let us work together to create a better one, not for us but for future generations.

