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## THE VOICE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

"A great revolution is taking place in our world, a social revolution in the minds and souls of men. And it has been transformed into a unified voice, crying out, 'We want to be free.'"—1960

"It may get me crucified. I may even die. But I want it said even if I die in the struggle that 'He died to make men free.'"—1962

"So listen to me, children: Put on your marching shoes; don'cha get weary; though the path ahead may be dark and dreary; we're walking for freedom, children."—1962

"In the spirit of the darkness of this hour, we must not despair, we must not become bitter—we must not lose faith in our white brothers."—1963, *after the bombing of a church in Birmingham where four little girls were killed.*

"I say to you today, my friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia sons of former slaves and sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream . . . I have a dream that one day in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its Governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one

day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.—Aug. 28, 1963, *The March on Washington.*

"The question is not whether we will be extremist but what kind of extremist we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or will we be extremists for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice—or will we be extremists for the cause of justice?"

—1963

"Some of you have knives, and I ask you to put them up. Some of you have arms, and I ask you to put them up. Get the weapon of nonviolence, the breastplate of righteousness, the armor of truth and just keep marching."

—1964

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

—1964

"What good does it do to be able to eat at a lunch counter if you can't buy a hamburger?"

—1965

"The Negro needs the white man to free him from his fears. The white man needs the Negro to free him from his guilt."—1966

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. . . . I've looked over and I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land."

—Last Wednesday, in Memphis

"I want you to sing for me tonight. I want you to do that song for me, 'Precious Lord, Take My Hand.' Sing it real pretty."—To a musician last Thursday just before Dr. King was shot and killed in Memphis.