

# **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

## **Personal Essay 2018-2019**

By Brenden Thomas

In 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his very famous letter, “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” It brought many people together and was one of his best notes. Rev. King’s letter was very inspiring and has a lot of impactful sentences included in it. Myself and others can follow his words as I comprehend them. I hope this has an effect on others and helps people to understand Rev. King’s words further.

In one of these many statements, Rev. King says, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” When I first read this, I thought it meant people would feel sad because of the injustice. I read the whole thing many times though, and a more meaningful interpretation of this came to mind. If something does happen in a certain place, it could affect people there, and in other places negatively. Much like in a chain reaction, if that negative attitude is a threat, it can go to many people and ultimately affect almost the whole country. To keep this from happening, the best course of action is to not be tight-fisted, however, I know that’s hard. All I can ask of people is to treat others the way you want to be treated and to try to correct the unjust acts around you.

“We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.” This is another phrase that has an important meaning. What I think Rev. King is suggesting is that we are all in one world, together, and we cannot change that. Later in the letter he says “Anyone who lives in the United States can never be considered an outsider.” This goes back to the original sentence. If we all live together, why make a tough relationship between each other? We are all humans, not enemies. Many people back then, and even now, don’t realize that.

The world is becoming a terrible place, not only because of racism, but mainly because of differences in religion and beliefs. If we all unite and strengthen our relations with each other as Rev. King wanted, we could stop wars, terrorism, and murders, and any other treacherous acts. I highly doubt that will happen—at least not soon—but we can still do things to make these atrocious acts become less likely to happen. We are all connected by our freedom in this country. We should honor that by listening to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior’s inspirational words from his 1963 Letter from Birmingham Jail.

