



Miriam Marsan

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"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It is our nature to hold ourselves first, above everything and everyone. We all do it, some display it differently than others, but it will always be a part of who we are as human beings. This quote by the great and past Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. asks us a question that many aren't willing to answer, or even entertain. But I challenge you, as we remember a man who did so much for others, to apply this question to your everyday life. At this time, hate and anger towards minorities, and the black community especially, have become even more apparent in the past year. Hate sows seeds of doubt, which turn into assumptions, that then bloom into anger. Hate takes control of the tongue and anger clouds the mind of its many victims, who all too willingly accept it. And when this hateful tongue spits its twisted words to those undeserving, it suppresses the heart, mind and soul of the one who receives the pitiful speech of hate, the one who is yet again shut up. But again and again they make themselves heard, with cry's of victory, anguish and pain, they scream with strong and powerful voices what they're ancestors were not able to. All too often these cries are ignored and belittled. That is the flaw. Some don't care to listen, some hear but don't listen, and some listen and ignore. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. asks every one of us, to sympathize, to mourn with those who mourn, to celebrate with those who celebrate and to fight for those who cannot. No one owes me an explanation of America's past and current history with racism. I owe it, as someone born with privilege, to educate, and to fight for the black community and others who are affected by social injustices and racism. It's time to stop living in a way that only benefits ourselves and to begin to live for others. This starts with love, because surely if you love someone you would be able to fight for them. One way that I can show my love for those suffering racial injustices is to be an ally, and by being an ally I must start by educating myself. It's as simple as picking up an article, book, phone or history textbook and reading. Let us lead our lives with vigor, with passion, and with love and respect. Let us cast off our hateful speech, and our angry minds, and renew ourselves with the love that needs to be shown to so many hungry souls. We must use our voices, those beautiful voices that are able to protect those beautiful beings who are targeted every day because of the colour of their skin. Your voice can be so powerful if you choose to use it. So please, use it. Do as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have done. The pain and exhaustion of fighting the same battle for hundreds of years has plagued the bodies and souls of many. I beg you to join in this battle, join the fight for racial justice and equality. Do to others what you would like them to do for you. Let us not just remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but stand valiantly with the movement he started.