

2nd Place, Abel Daniel, Arlington Community High School

I, Too, Have a Dream

I have a dream that one day we will achieve world peace. That day we will all look at each other without outlining our differences, such as language, skin color, height, weight, and every other discriminative aspect. As MLK said, I foresee a future where “...my children will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

The fact that there are divisions among countries is a sign that we are segregated by different types of governments, religions, and cultures. Unless freedom rings from the high mountains of the Himalayas, we can't move on. Unless freedom rings in the heated deserts of Africa, we can't move on. Until freedom rings through the Great Lakes of America, we will not move forward. Once everyone is free, we can truly be connected and complete each other, making the multiplicity of all of us a unified world, where everyone is at peace.

Apollo 8 astronauts had a change of perspective and described Earth as a “stunning, fragile oasis”. Astronaut Garan said, “In spite of the overwhelming beauty of this scene, serious inequity exists on the apparent paradise we have been given...one billion people...don't have clean water to drink...go to bed hungry...social injustice, conflicts, and poverty... remain[s] pervasive across the planet.” Let's focus on the bigger picture and understand the enormity of the situations we choose to ignore every day. Although we are small and insignificant alone, we are very strong together.

So, please, let us be free, let us join one another and make happiness. Let us love each other and make sure we aren't sending the next wave of generations to their demise. Let us be friendly to our sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers. Let us discover the world and its marvelous wonders. I may not get to see all my dreams unravel, “but we as a people will get to the promised land.”