

The Dream is NOT over

by Thomas R. Cuba 2008

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The dream is not over just because a black man is now the President of the United States.

Here's a question for you. What did Dr. King mean when he ended his speech that August day with "*Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!*"

Oh, here's another question: Have you ever *read* the speech? I was fortunate to be able to see it (on television) when it was given. I can tell you that the impact of reading that speech is so very different from that of hearing it live. There is no possible way anyone who did not live in that era could possibly imagine the impact. Living then, a person was immersed in the events of the time and the *undercurrents of emotion born of the sequence of events prior to that speech lent a spirit to those words which cannot be replicated.*

But I digress.

What did Dr. King mean? What was his Dream?

Read the speech.

He was *not* dreaming of freeing the black man from the oppression of the white man, or the system, or the government.

He was *not* seeking to place black people above those of any other race.

Read the speech.

Dr. King's dream was that *both* black men and white men would be free from the oppression of inequality. Free from prejudice born of skin color. Free of the drama of interracial insanities.

Dr. King dreamed of a time when people would meet and their first thought might be, "what a tall person" or "what a pleasant smile" instead of what color a person might be.

Dr. King dreamed of a time when *race and religion didn't matter*. When we would be judged for *who* we are as people, not what *type* of people we are. When our character, judgement, and personality were more important than where our great grandparents were born.

Read the speech.

Editors Note: This essay was prepared in response to the emotional reactions to the election of Barack Obama that included the fulfillment of the "Dream" as presented by Dr. King in 1968. What people did not understand then and do not understand now is that racism is a burden on the souls of both the oppressed and the oppressor.