**“I Have a Dream”**

speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation. \_\_\_\_\_

Five score years ago, [a great American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln), in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the [Emancipation Proclamation](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/). This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. \_\_\_\_\_

But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. \_\_\_\_\_

And so 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 and 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 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* today! \_\_\_\_\_

And this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

*My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.*

*Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride,*

*From every mountainside, let freedom ring!*  \_\_\_\_\_\_

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when *all* of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

*Free at last! Free at last!*

*Thank God Almighty, we are free at last! \_\_\_\_\_*