

Obstacles

In society today, people face many obstacles. No matter what ethnicity, body type, or religion they are, there will always be obstacles along the way throughout their lives. For me, the most difficult one was the transition from a developing country to the United States of America. I moved during the year of 2009. I'll never forget my father's words, "When you come here, you must remember to always keep your head held high and to always try your hardest. No matter what." If you ask me, that's a little too much pressure for a seven year old who just graduated the second grade. It was all fascinating: the lights, the signs and things I rarely saw in Yangon, Myanmar. Soon I went to school and all my worries about fitting in seemed to disappear as life went on. There came times when the classes at school were difficult to understand. I wanted to give up; I wanted to give in. I felt like I was a disappointment to my father, who sacrificed everything for me. However I did not, I wanted to make him proud. I wanted him to know that all his sacrifices were not put to waste and with the support and encouragement of my family and teachers, I overcame that obstacle in my life.

The same happened for Martin Luther King Jr. He had the biggest obstacle in his life that affected millions of others. He was put under a lot of pressure. He was fighting for equal civil rights. The Colored had less privileges and less rights than the Whites. The Colored were not allowed to use the same bathroom as the Whites. They were not able to drink from the same water fountain. The Whites had been discriminating the Blacks just for their physical appearance. Martin Luther King Jr. and others tried their hardest so that people of all colors could be treated equally. They overcame that obstacle by being united, by supporting and encouraging each other. The best part was that Martin Luther King Jr. overcame that obstacle

peacefully. For example, Dr. King had started a peaceful protest to get the attention of the government through the bus boycott. He proposed a citywide boycott for public transportation. He gathered all the citizens and prevented them from riding any type of public transportation. The citizens obliged. He made sure that violence was not involved. He knew that violence was never the answer. He knew that violence would get him and others like him nowhere. This was the great thing about Martin Luther King Jr. He overcame the biggest obstacle in his life with peace. Overcoming obstacles is difficult, but by being united and supporting each other, we can get through anything and everything. We shall overcome.

Will

As everyone lives life, they approach several obstacles. As an example, several people around the world, including me, experience a period of time living in a dark, cold cave of depression. This feeling of unworthiness and low self-esteem has had a significant impact on other's life along with mine. Several negative and positive effect can emerge from this occurrence. As a result of depression, there can be self harm or even such thoughts of suicide. Now, if I look back and reflect on this type of brutal behaviors, it came to my realization of how ignorant and foolish my decision was. Regardless of this feeling, of being irrelevant, I came to school with a bright smile meanwhile battling a wild internal conflict. For the past years, I shared my feelings with a close friend but this was only a temporary solution. Gradually, I disregarded this feeling of depression and resolved myself to live my life to the fullest and not waste a second of my life agonizing over irrelevant situations. I made a will and that will was to become the person that I so long yearned to be for the rest of my life. I yearned to be a positive and merry person who can overcome anything, meanwhile focusing on the positive things. In this situation, in order to overcome depression, I had to be and was dedicated to this will. I was determined to change myself for the better and didn't let it ruin my future.

As long as there is a will, there is nothing that can not be overcome. Martin Luther King Jr. has stated in his speech that, "We shall overcome". We approach situations that we think we would never overcome and because of this, we don't try. We give up and and go through the same routine over and over again like a cycle. However, Martin Luther King didn't give up. Martin Luther King was dedicated to his will and that will was to give African Americans freedom, rights and equality. He believed that there should be a change and didn't keep this to

himself. He shared his belief with the public and helped African Americans to acquire freedom and equality. Although African Americans were treated unequally, they took Martin Luther King's advice into consideration. Instead of acting violently, they restrained themselves from any act of violence.

As a result, African Americans were able to attend school with other races and sit anywhere on buses. Before they had this right and freedom, there were segregated schools and strict laws against blacks. As a benefit for overcoming my obstacle, I became a more positive and merry person with more positive and brighter thoughts.

Overall Martin Luther King was the key to equality and freedom. He supported and advised the African Americans to the path of success and desegregation. Martin Luther King overcame this obstacle of giving African Americans rights, freedom and equality. Yet, segregation has not end and still occur till this day.

We Shall Overcome

Even in the darkest hour, there is a sliver of hope. We cannot surrender when things seem unpromising. We must continue to fight until we achieve justice either for ourselves or others. However, in order to terminate all of the violations against human rights that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and countless others have dedicated their lives to do, we must use our voices and strength to get this job done. Also, we should remind one another that we all deserve to be treated both equally and fairly. The only way in which we can overcome the constant suppression of the powerless is through unity, empowerment, and diligence.

The celebrated Selma to Montgomery March is a critical example of the importance of unity to overcome tyranny. A gathering of diverse people for the single purpose of demanding justice for those who duly deserve it is what we desperately require, especially in this day and age. As a nation, we are gradually reverting to the days of separation and alienation. To prevent this we must realize that we all possess unique cultures, appearances, lifestyles, and beliefs. What allows us to come together is when we recognize our diversity, and join in the fight as one people to gain the entitlement to indulge in our differences with no fear.

In order to triumph over all xenophobia, misogynistic and bigoted beliefs, and racism it is essential that we first empower those who are subjugated to those awful ideas. This can be done by creating a safe space for those who are affected by the hate and aggression that they experience on a continuous and daily basis. Education is also an important factor in the process of empowerment and overcoming intolerance. Not only can it allow those who are prejudiced to realize the faults in their beliefs, but also, it allows those being discriminated against to realize that unequal treatment is unacceptable. It motivates us to fight for liberation at all costs.

Assata Shakur an African-American social activist once said, "Where there is oppression, there will be resistance." This was said nearly 40 years ago, and will continue to live on through history as a source of motivation for those whose rights are abused. Resistance is an action that is easier said than done. It is precisely for this reason that our assiduous and incessant effort is especially mandatory during the worst times. When unqualified people who promote hateful and extremist ideologies are put in power, it is our duty to be sure that they do not infringe our constitutional rights.

Union, empowerment of ourselves and others, and hard work is the only way in which we can make Dr. King's dream of justice for all and overcoming discrimination come true. Division between people only incites violence, enmity, and hindrance in progression. Coming together and empowering one another are two important steps in order to fight against the system that mistreats its people. In addition, putting in all of our effort and might in resistance is vital. Otherwise, idleness will come off as weakness, and as a result, obstruct the chances of freedom. Let us join arm-in-arm like the activists of Dr. King's time and continue the petition for everyone's innate rights.