Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

December 10th, 2024

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A World I Wish You Could See

Dear Dr. King,

I write this to you with immense gratitude in my heart but also with profound regret—regret that you could not witness the day when your dreams began to come to life. The life where your words continue to reshape the world and inspire people to relentlessly fight for what they believe in.

Growing up, I felt alone. As a Bhutanese Nepali Refugee, I never felt I belonged anywhere. My family was forced out of their homeland, leaving behind everything they had built, only to face rejection in a country that denied them basic rights. I was born in a country that refused to acknowledge me and rejected my documentation from the day I was born.

I grew up feeling invisible like a nameless shadow caught between worlds that didn’t want me. Even when I came to the U.S., I struggled to find my identity; I constantly felt out of place. But that feeling faded annually, after every January.

Every January, I was educated and reminded of the work you did. I learned about the marches you led, the struggles you advocated for, and most importantly, the lives you touched. Your story was beyond history; to me, it was a motive and a spark. You taught me that I am more than the labels placed upon me and that my worth is not defined by my appearance but by who I am.

You have inspired not just me but millions around the globe. Your vision has touched hearts and changed lives in ways you could never have imagined. I wish you could see the world we live in now—the doctors, lawyers, teachers, and even millionaires of color who walk paths your courage helped pave.

Each of their stories is a testament and proof of your work, the sacrifices you made, how your dream has come to life, and how society will continue to make you proud daily. We still have significant work to get done, but our progress is pivotal. We will continue to fight for our rights and do the work, never forgetting your legacy.

You showed me that my voice matters. Inspired by your legacy, I have worked to create spaces where others like me can feel seen and valued. I am starting a program to help immigrants navigate the new world and learn English. I have participated in protests and advocacy movements to push for equality and justice, with a drive for an equal world. Every step I take in this work, I think of your dream—a dream of unity, equity, and a world where no one is left behind.

Your courage to dream in a time of darkness has become a light for many, including me. Though the road to justice remains long, your vision keeps us moving forward, one step at a time. I hold your words close as I fight for my community and the dream of a world where everyone belongs.

With deep appreciation and immense gratitude,

Pratima Neopaney