For Immediate Release

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**A Moral Portrait**

**Celebrating the Birth of a Prince**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

**By E. D. Mondainé Jr.**

Ninety-three years after the birth of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., there is still much that the world needs to learn from his legacy, especially considering the frail and infected state that humanity faces globally. Yet, Dr. King's life exemplifies faith and overcoming the external forces at work against righteousness.

By following his example, we will remember how to transform our courage into power, extract strength from a bold vision, and create social justice from our shared humanity. But the path is crooked and hard. As a leader, he faced difficult decisions and bore enormous responsibility. Dr. King once stated: "The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter." Fortunately for us, Dr. King did not falter. Instead, he accepted the challenge and left a panoply for the following generations.

King didn't reach for fame or amass great fortunes as a young man. He was an ordinary man, and like him, we as citizens of this great nation should examine our lives, asking ourselves each day, what should I be doing to make a difference? Am I endeavoring to positively impact the world I desire to live in and see?

America is rooted in the faith and humanity that reminds us that we are all created in the likeness and image of God. Therefore, we cannot allow nor tolerate any measure of racism, and we must also eradicate hate wherever it raises its hideous head. Like King, we cannot be afraid to sacrifice for the good of humanity. In these times, we must practice and personify his courage.

We honor Martin's memory when we engage an extreme dedication to justice and hope. But, most importantly, we consecrate King's legacy when we walk down the pathways he left for us with love and compassion, especially for our enemies who choose hate over love. King wanted us to become what he called "the unsettling force" that reaches across racial, political, social, religious, and geographical boundaries to create a beloved, human community that ushers in an era of global human rights.

We must learn from the mistakes of our past. We must continue this race with a new radicalism that doesn't limit what is possible by dividing the struggle for justice into militant factions and coalitions of color. Taking up the mantle of King's legacy demands that we embrace all oppressed people everywhere in the world. Our charge now is to build broad, international alliances committed to transforming our world from the bottom up. In doing so, we tap into where our true power lies – at the edge of our common plowshares where we can cut back the noxious weeds of rising global fascism and plant a future that bears the fruits of peace, kindness, forgiveness, and love.

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