

I thought all day yesterday about what I could write to honor Martin Luther King's day. And, finally, I came to the conclusion that there wasn't much I could say or write—he had said it all himself. So, here are a few quotes from Dr. King with the reasons I chose them:

“Find a voice—in a whisper.” This short, quiet statement made me think about the contrast with the person who occupies the White House now. Tweeting vitriol is about as far as one can get from finding a voice in the quiet of calm, nonthreatening speech.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness.” And condemning groups of people because of where they come from, what color their skin is, what their religion or lack of it is, and what their economic status is, is just plain wrong. And it is the embodiment of “darkness” in control.

“Without justice, there cannot be peace.” And there has been very little justice for immigrants in this country during recent years. Separating children from parents, demonizing immigrants, stopping people and holding them who turned out to be American citizens, sometimes native born citizens—these actions do not result from justice. The same goes for the discrimination that takes place for people of color in this country—in regard to traffic stops, prison sentences, and even to harassment of people while they are conducting their daily lives.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” That seems to be what is happening here now, that people have let political affiliation keep them from pressuring Donald Trump to begin acting like a normal human being or quitting. It doesn't matter if a person is a Republican, Democrat, libertarian, or completely non-political. Everyone has the responsibility to speak up to stop the lying and inflammatory rhetoric that comes from the White House now.

“The time is always right to do what is right.” There is no statute of limitations on doing the right thing. Demand from this administration that the government shutdown be ended now. Time for talk of walls, borders, and immigration is not now; it is when the “furloughed” workers are working and getting paid for their jobs. They should not be the hostages of an immoral despot in the White House.