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Martin Luther King Jr. Essay 2021

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Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "darkness cannot drive out darkness, and that only light can do that. Hatred cannot drive out hatred, only love can do that." There are many examples of light driving out darkness around us, even in our own community!

One example is the local community kitchen, where people in need of food can get it for free: thanks to the help of volunteers and donations. My Nanny volunteers at the kitchen and has brought me along a few times and I really enjoyed the experience. I think this is a great example of light because it brings local people together as well as helping the community, thus making everyone feel good. Another example of love bringing the community together were the peaceful "Black Lives Matter" protests during 2020. Many people of all different races, backgrounds, and genders came together to plead for equality in a peaceful way. This gave voices to people as well as shed light on the situations a many people; not even just in the United States were (and still are) dealing with. In fact, Martin Luther King Jr. was well known for his peaceful protests, almost all of them being for racial equality; just like the "Black Lives Matter" protests.

I think Martin Luther King Jr. believed darkness will never join people together in the right ways, however, light can do this. An example of darkness separating people and making them turn against each other is war and violence, as the famous saying goes, "an eye for an eye just leaves everyone blind." An example of fighting darkness with darkness not working is the Charlottesville riots. The "Unite the Right" rallies of August 11-12, 2017, brought thousands of protesters to Charlottesville, many

bearing Confederate and neo-Nazi symbolism, to protest the removal of the statues. One white supremacist killed a counter protester, Heather Heyer, and injured 19 others when he plowed his car into a crowd.

Peaceful conversing and compromise or “light” could “give sight to the people” and “drive out the darkness”. This brings me to my main point of light being the only thing that could possibly drive out a force like darkness.

I believe that sometimes, it can be scary to fight love with hate. When someone is exhibiting aggressive or oppressive behavior it can take a lot of courage to try not to simply retaliate. Another civil rights activist that is famous for his peaceful protesting also believes this is Mahatma Gandhi. A famous quote by the activist that demonstrates my point is, “The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being human.” A coward is incapable of exhibiting love; it is the prerogative of the brave.” This powerful statement shows that many times, the cowardly instinct is to react with hate; whereas it takes bravery to respond with love and understanding. I think that this ties into Martin Luther King Jr.’s quote because both demonstrate using love and compassion to eliminate hate.

In conclusion, love wins, no matter what the situation may be, and that is a statement that has always been true and will always remain true.