



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Women's League Shabbat 2015/5775

READING I

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1969

As we read in *Parashat Vaera* today, about Israel's continued pursuit of freedom from Egyptian bondage, we should acknowledge Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. whose birthday and legacy will be celebrated this Monday, January 19. Reverend King often found solace in the words of the biblical prophets who anticipated a future era without bigotry or war.

This passage is taken from the *African-American Heritage Hymnal* (Gia Publications, Inc.)

May the wisdom and words of Martin Luther King rekindle our faith.

May the deep love that Dr. King had for all people be released in us, that we, too, might work miracles in the lives of those who continue to hate.

Dr. King taught that only love can overcome hatred, bitterness and fear.

May his struggle for social transformation continue in this generation. May all people come to believe that with perseverance, "We Shall Overcome."

"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an overflowing stream."
(Amos. 5:24)

May the work of Dr. King continue to eradicate racial injustice and its ungodly consequences.

Dr. King pursued his dream of racial equality by appealing to the conscience of his enemies.

May we continue to cultivate the nonviolent discipline of Dr. King, abandoning unrestrained acts of force.

He taught us that a heart full of grace and love is just as important as an education.

May the spirit of Dr. King continue to flow through our daily living.

He believed in self-respect and dignity even though he knew that there would be difficult days ahead.

May we have the courage of Dr. King as we continue to stand up for justice, reconciliation and truth, despite challenge and controversy.

Dr. King said that war is never a victory, regardless of the outcome.

May our pursuit of peace cause the fury of war to vanish from the face of the earth.

And let us say Amen.

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 820, New York, New York 10115
phone 212.870.1260 email womensleague@wlcj.org website www.wlcj.org