

“A Shot in Memphis Heard ‘Round the World”

On April 4th at 6:01 p.m. a shot fired from a powerful hunting rifle...was literally heard around the world. Unlike the first shot of the Revolutionary War at Lexington which must have taken months before it reverberated throughout the globe, this shot’s echo was heard almost instantaneously.

Dr. King had been shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in southern part of the downtown area of Memphis

...the emergency room personnel were alerted to prepare for the arrival of a patient dying of a gunshot wound in the neck. Doctors were called and they and the nurses were present and prepared to go to work on the patient immediately.

No one knew who the patient was until Reverend Abernathy and Reverend Lee came rushing in shouting: “Someone shot Dr. King!”

Dr. King lived for an hour after being wounded and was pronounced dead at 7:05 p.m.

May the soul of a courageous leader, who preached and practiced non-violence, but paradoxically met his death by a violent blow, rest in peace.

(Prior to reading this information below)

Who was Martin Luther King and what do you know about him?

Martin Luther King, Jr., (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College. He enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, receiving a degree in 1955.

Early in December, 1955 he led a bus boycott. On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, blacks and whites rode the buses as equals. During these years, King was arrested, his home was bombed, and he emerged as a leader.

In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever

there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles.

He planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of African American voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.

He was arrested upwards of twenty times and assaulted at least four times; was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine in 1963; and the symbolic leader of American blacks, and a world figure. At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city, he was assassinated.

(After reading)

What do you know about Martin Luther King now that you did not know 5 minutes ago?

Dr. King Quotes:

"All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem."

"At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love."

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."