
Editorial

Breaking Silence

We are now faced with the fact, my friends, that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked, and dejected with a lost opportunity. The tide in the affairs of men does not remain at flood—it ebbs. We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is adamant to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residues of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words, ‘Too late.’ There is an invisible book of life that faithfully records our vigilance or our neglect. Omar Khayyam is right: ‘The moving finger writes, and having writ moves on.’

We still have a choice today: nonviolent coexistence or violent coannihilation.

—*Excerpted from Martin Luther King’s speech at Riverside Church, April 4, 1967: “Beyond Vietnam—A Time To Break Silence.”*

Dr. King took a bold step in the speech in which he spoke these words, moving beyond the civil rights movement per se, to oppose the war in Vietnam. Today, the world is in desperate need of others with the same kind of courage, who will take on the cause of humanity as a whole, and break all inhibitions against speaking the truth that must be told.

Last week’s press conference demanding the release of the suppressed 28 pages of the 9/11 Inquiry report is one outstanding example of such courage. Former Senator Bob Graham, and Congressmen Walter Jones and Stephen Lynch have

looked the dire consequences of the continued cover-up of the truth about who funded 9/11 in the eye, and refused to be intimidated into shutting up. They have defined the issue on the world historical level where it actually lies, as a determinant of our future ability to live in safety and prosperity.

The same kind of courage can be seen raising its head in France, under the same conditions of warfare by a terrorist force deployed from the same British Mother. So far, the national political leadership there has avoided the trap of reactionary rage, moving instead to pull the nation, and nations, together in a unified campaign for cooperation among religions and peoples.

Such courage is, and must be, contagious. The question is, as Dr. King raised it, will it be exercised in time?

The initiatives of last week need be quickly followed through to a successful conclusion. Senators, as well as Congressmen, must find the courage to step forward and sponsor a companion resolution for Obama to declassify the 28 pages. Frenchmen and their allies must find the courage to buck the U.S./NATO policy of confrontation and regime change against Syria, Russia, and others, in order to get an effective alliance to end terrorism.

Most importantly, citizens of all nations must decide to act as human beings committed to a future for all humanity. That commitment today means fighting to put Wall Street and the British Empire out of business, and joining the growing alliance of BRICS nations, which have chosen an Alexander Hamilton-style program of real economic growth, rather than cut-throat monetarist competition, and geopolitical conflict.

Reflect deeply on the challenge presented by the immortal Dr. Martin Luther King. He is speaking to you.