

Inspired by the phrase "there will be difficult days ahead" from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, I've been to the Mountaintop speech on April 3, 1968.

**Hope: For the difficult days ahead**

We are witnesses  
To the attainment of a shared dream.  
Through an historic event,  
Our dream experience  
Became an answered prayer.  
We watched on television  
As messengers of hope,  
Supporters, donors and volunteers;  
Those who voted for the new President,  
Those who loved enough to care,  
Those who worked tirelessly,  
We saw them there,  
Weeping in joy for the many years  
We thought it was not possible.

When faith said, we as a Nation  
Would one day achieve this milestone,  
We did not think, in our lifetime.  
But the unbelievable occurred.  
We passed the word that he was "The One,"  
So we had greater faith, a greater vision  
And voted in greater numbers  
In order to get it done.

Now we stand at the threshold  
Of the change we sought,  
The change for which so many fought,  
That is consistent with the lessons taught,  
That if we believe it is possible,  
And deliver the effort to match the plan,  
Yes we can, make it happen.

But we've got some difficult days ahead,  
The stark realities of our current state  
Expose our fears and apprehension;  
A tumultuous tension hangs over us  
Like a threatening sky.  
We wait for moments to band together,  
To pray, break bread and stand together  
And live out the true meaning of our creed,  
As created equals we need

To harness our differences,  
And use our distinctions  
To inspire a nation and a world,  
To come together, to succeed.

The economic crisis is eroding  
The marker of consumer confidence,  
With businesses impaired and imploding,  
Will higher rates of helplessness,  
Cause bankruptcies to rise in self defense  
With joblessness, foreclosures,  
And mounting stress?  
We have people in the depths of despair,  
The young and those reaching maturity,  
Who worry about the cost of health-care,  
And pensions and social security.

We've got some difficult days ahead,  
The view from the climb will be scary,  
The dangers faced will vary  
And we may find ourselves wanting  
To turn back, but rarely will an adventure  
Be more exhilarating  
And rehabilitating  
Than our current track.

The present is treacherous and trying,  
Wars and conflicts occupy our thoughts;  
Images of AIDS victims and children dying  
In a world that is wrought  
With national and tribal aggressions,  
Political unrest and genocide;  
Drunk on the wine of ethnic pride;  
The cleansing is sadly justified,  
Without conscience or concessions.

We've got some difficult days ahead,  
But we are born of interdependence  
And are placed in history,  
To advocate democracy  
And a world where freedom  
Is on the minds and lips  
Of every heart.  
Let the things that separate us,  
No longer keep us apart,  
As we come together to heal our land

To strengthen the premise for which we stand.

We must teach and ensure education's  
Accessible to those who want to learn,  
For an educated population  
Is likely to help people to return  
More to their country and society,  
As they perform well in their chosen roles  
Employment will lessen anxiety  
As people move toward achieving their goals.

We've got some difficult days ahead,  
But we'll assume our rightful place in the world  
And honor our mission and obligation  
To transition our planet to the next generation;  
Clean air and clean water  
And energy reserves,  
To give them the environment  
They deserve.

We must appeal to those who stand  
With folded arms of skepticism,  
No less possessed with patriotism,  
They must have a chance to cooperate  
With the bold moves to improve America.  
We shall be an impetus to credibility,  
Hope and a fresh start and the possibility  
To preserve our values and our borders;  
To convert the skeptics into supporters,  
For the good of our democracy.

We've got some difficult days ahead,  
The ride will not soothe the faint in spirit.  
The people anxiously wish to be led  
Since we asked for change, they do not fear it.  
Our charge is humble, yet broad in scope;  
But the change we need, we need to sustain,  
For we have listened to the cries of hope;  
To address discomfort and ease the pain.

We will create jobs and ensure the cities  
And small towns have industries  
Where they can be industrious;  
And march for justice  
For more than just us.  
For when America is working

Everyone can see the advantages of our system  
And the fruits of being free.

We've got some difficult days ahead,  
Where patience and his popularity;  
Will cause us to be a beacon of light,  
Impressive in brilliance and clarity;  
A search light for those who are lost  
In the night;  
A spotlight on where we might intervene;  
A lamp to sit on its very own stand,  
A lighthouse to warn of dangers unseen  
And focus the people within the land,  
To be a flash light for those in hiding,  
A street lamp for the safety of the street,  
A candle in the window that guiding  
Us home, where we can rest our weary feet.

We've got some difficult days ahead,  
But justice will flow down like water  
And righteousness like a mighty stream;  
As sisters and brothers,  
Sons and daughters,  
We have the faith perchance to dream;  
For we are Americans,  
It is in our DNA to succeed.  
With God on our side,  
We go forward with pride  
For we have been chosen to lead.

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