

Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. We make a lot of detours, but we're always heading for the same destination. Most people see the world as a threatening place, and, because they do, the world turns out, indeed, to be a threatening place. I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." The future was already written by Allah (God), and what he had written was always for the good of man. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brother-hood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. I'm like everyone else — I see the world in terms of what I would like to see happen, not what actually does.