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Chapter-XIX

Humanism and Peace in Martin Luther King, Jr's I Have a Dream

Shubhangi Nivrutti Lavate

Abstract:

Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of the greatest men that the world has ever seen. An ardent clergyman, King believed in the principles of equality. He championed the cause of the down-trodden Negroes and fought unceasingly to get them political and social justice. He came under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi and wielded the weapon of non-violence. In his brief career of eleven years, he led many peaceful demonstrations all over America. He was awarded the Nobel Peaceful Prize in 1964. Ironically, when he was planning to lead a peaceful demonstration in Memphis, he was shot dead on April 4, 1968. I have a dream is a public speech that was delivered by American civil rights activist and Baptist minister, Martin Luther King Jr. during the March on Washington for jobs and freedom on 28th August, 1963. In the speech, King called for civil and economic rights and an end to racism in the United States. The present passage states briefly the eternal values for which he stood. It also clearly emphasizes the method, aim and purpose of his movement. He drives home the significance of the non-violent method of agitation. He had a dream which of course was not realized in his life-time. But the struggle continues with the same