**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) Dr. King was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, by James Earl Ray just after 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 1968. When he was shot, King was leaving his room on his way to a soul-food dinner at the home of the Reverend Samuel (Billy) Kyles. Accompanying King were his friends and supporters, including Dr. Ralph Abernathy, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, the Reverend Andrew Young, and lawyer Chauncey Eskridge. King had also promised to attend an evening rally in support of the striking black garbage collectors of Local 1733. He had requested that Ben Branch, the lead singer of the Breadbasket Band, which was providing the evening’s entertainment, sing “Precious Lord” at the rally. *(Amy Wallace, David Wallechinsky, and Irving Wallace, in The Book of Lists #3, p. 61)***

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And the award goes to ...? King. Who was posthumously awarded the Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album in 1971 for his "Why I Oppose the War" in Vietnam." *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 156)*

**Martin Luther King received numerous awards and accolades, including at least fifty honorary degrees from various colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad. (Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 146)**

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**I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. *(Martin Luther King, Jr.)***

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**Today is January 18, 2021, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, commemorating America's transformative civil rights leader. King was born with the name Michael. His father, a pastor, renamed both himself and his son after the leader of the Protestant Reformation. *(The Daily Chronicle))***

Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968) was an African-American civil rights activist and clergyman who was actually born Michael King Jr. (named after his father.) During a family holiday in Germany in 1934, King's father found out about the German Protestant Martin Luther (1483-1586) and so changed Michael's name to Martin in honor of the German Protestant. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 156)*

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**By January 17, 2000, Martin Luther King Jr. Day was officially observed in all fifty U.S. states. (Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 146)**

**If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live. (Martin Luther King, Jr.)**

**Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step. *(Martin Luther King, Jr.)***

**As a youth Martin Luther King assumed guilt for his own or others’ real or imagined sins. In 1941 he mistakenly thought his brother had accidentally killed their grandmother, so 12-year-old Martin threw himself from the upstairs window of his home, but he escaped serious injury. When the grandmother died later that year, King thought he was responsible because he had once sneaked off to a parade on a Sunday. Again the boy leaped from the same window – fortunately with the same harmless results. *(M. B. T. & R. K. R., in The Book of Lists #2, p. 460)***

After King died, the autopsy revealed that even though King was only 39 years old, he had a heart of a 60-year-old man. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 156)*

**Because of his intelligence, he was placed into the first grade at the age of five, but was expelled when his teacher discovered his age. By fifteen, King had already graduated from high school. (Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 146)**

Musician Ben Branch was due to perform that night at an event which King was attending and he was on the balcony with King on the day he died. Apparently King's last words were: "Ben, make sure you play Take My Hand, Precious Lord in the evening tonight. Play it real pretty." *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 156)*

**Martin Luther King’s non-violent doctrines were greatly steered by the teachings of Gandhi. (Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 146)**

**One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means. *(Martin Luther King Jr.)***

**In the wake of the “I Have a Dream” speech and march, King was saluted as “Man of the Year” by Time magazine for 1963, and in 1964, he was the youngest person ever awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. (Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 146)**

The day that King was shot he was staying in room 306 at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis -- a place that he and the Reverend Ralph Abernathy stayed in so often when they were passing through that it was commonly known as the "King-Abernathy suite.." (C*harlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 156)*

**The civil rights leader tried to commit suicide at age twelve and again at thirteen by jumping out of an upstairs window. The first time was after King thought his brother killed their grandmother; the second was after his grandmother died. *(Ed Lucaire, in Celebrity Setbacks, p. 208)***

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