

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CALLBACK SIDES

KING

Like a boil that can never be cured so long as it is covered up but must be laid bare with all its venom to the natural balms of air and light, the monster must be exposed to the illumination of human conscience before it can be stopped. We must look upon it and open our eyes wide with mercy and understanding. For if we understand it, we embrace ourselves. We are the monster, Nancy.

Our most erudite men stand on the sideline and mouth pious irrelevancies and sanctimonious trivialities. Our leaders live in monologue rather than dialogue while their cities burn. The streets of this nation flow with blood as people with nothing to lose -- for they have nothing, not even hope -- rise to be heard by a deafened government. I have seen the monster in Birmingham, on the mall in Washington, in this prison cell. My brothers and sisters have seen the monster in Atlanta and Memphis and Detroit and Los Angeles. With them, I have seen the other side. And if we all can see this creature in the mirror, we can dream at last to be free. We can recognize the beast, and free ourselves from it.