

“I’m Gonna Let It Shine”

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“This little light of mine”: a truly inspirational song that hailed from the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950’s and 1960’s. This song inspires me, as it always has, since I was young and singing it in the church choir. To me, this song has always been about your own personal light within, and how you must let your light shine to others in times of darkness. Whether you stand up as one, or as part of a group, shining your individual light is the most important thing. This song would have provided an inspiration of hope to those African-Americans in the 1950’s and 1960’s who were fighting for their civil rights.

During the Civil Rights Movement, many African-Americans sang this song to help inspire each other and raise each other up. The movement for racial equality in American was a struggle that many had to deal with. Rosa Parks changed the course of history on that day in 1955 when she refused to be treated differently than a white male. Many boycotts and strikes took place in an effort to desegregate America, but often ended violently. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rose up to become the leader of America’s Civil Rights Movement and because of his acts; America eventually became an equally free country for all. However, many struggles still take place in today’s society that have to deal with discrimination and segregation of African-Americans.

I believe all people, not matter what race, are equal on every level. In my community, diversity is not something very common. Many people still racially discriminate against others in an effort to prove that the white race is better. I have, and will continue to stand up against those who discriminate against the differences of one person’s race over another. African-Americans are stereotyped into a category, as many other groups are in society. However, African-American people are still seen as they were fifty years ago: as bad people who don’t deserve to be treated equally. Gangsters are an example of this kind of African-American stereotyping. My views on equality will never change. I will always believe that all people should be treated equally on every occasion. I will continue to shine my inner light with this little light of mine. “Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine. I’ve got to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!”