

On the Nobel Peace Prize stage, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. motivates a global audience to “recogn[ize] that nonviolence is the answer to overcoming oppression.” In doing so, the determined leader of the Civil Rights movement inspires “peoples everywhere” to optimistically look at the future as an untroubled, advantageous one filled with love and prosperity. Still, this activist does not fail to acknowledge the “uncertainties of the future” that remain as a result of “racism and war” and “thermonuclear destruction” (to name a few). Taking that all into account, Dr. King not only addresses the problems but, more importantly, provides a solution: “love.” He, thereby, continues his pledge of nonviolence for which he has received the award and contends that “unarmed truth and unconditional love” will solve much more than the racism within U.S. borders.

King similarly encourages hope for a “bright daybreak of peace” throughout his address. Opening with “I accept this award,” the reverend thanks the committee and the world for being honored; nonetheless, he quickly shifts his focus to continuing his pledge for “nonviolence.” He purposefully repeats “I refuse to accept...” within five consecutive sentences, itemizing wrongdoings—past, present, and future—for which he will not stand. His resilience is further established with recurrent “I believe[s]” which solidify that his faith in humanity is unwavering. King “still believe[s];” he is confident his “dream” can become a reality! These anaphora effectively remind audiences around the globe to unite with him as brothers and sisters beneath a Heavenly Father whose word encourages “Love thy neighbor.”