

“Gandhi has illustrated that a man can pull himself out of segregation with patience, persistence, intelligence, discipline and a little bit of a sense of humor”(Daniels 2013). Quotes like this found in the movie Lee Daniels The Butler have helped to shape this country. When I began to think about the topic for this essay, The Butler instantly came to mind. It demonstrated the transformation of this country through the great philosophical leaders. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. stood on the shoulders of other great leaders like Gandhi. “If I have seen the future, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants”, Sir Isaac Newton quote relates to our past, it helps us to be appreciative and it can be applied to our Legacy.

Newton’s quote relates to our past. This country’s foundation was built by Africans yet they were considered to be less than a human being. As time progressed and slavery ended African Americans were still not considered equal as their white counterparts. In the film you can see the transition in the state of mind of the white Americans. Through the demonstrations mainly led by Martin Luther king Jr. King knew that through peaceful protest, there could be a big enough negative feedback for it to be nationally broadcasted. Once it was broadcasted for America to see, the country then understood what they were doing was wrong. There is a particular scene in the movie when the President is watching policemen beating citizens and firefighters spraying peaceful protesters with water hoses. President John F. Kennedy said to the main character “you know, I never really understood what you all went through until I saw that...”(Daniels 2013). Shortly after that John F Kennedy did a television report to the American People on Civil Rights. When these hate crimes were being broadcasted on television, it was like holding up a mirror to America. The crimes that were committed appeared so horrible on television that society started to realize how immoral these acts were. This is where the change

began and leaders like JFK stood on top of MLK's shoulders, and MLK stood on top of Gandhi's shoulders with the hope of brightening our future.

Our present is so important because it affects our future. When you look back on the great leaders of this country, you can see they had a mindset of success, Just that alone we can use today. We are at a place where so many things are given that wasn't in the past. Just thinking about that concept makes you appreciate what we have and drives us to do more. People fought for us to vote and to have desegregated schools. To not exercise our rights would be very disrespectful for the ancestors who sacrificed their life for freedom. When we apply the quote to the present, new developments are created. The foundations of inventions are usually started by someone else's ideas.

Some people mistaken legacy for being famous. In reality, legacy is anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor. I hope when my name is mentioned in the future they say Arthur Wesley was a young man who had promise and goals to succeed and who exemplified a positive African American male. I try to uphold these characteristics every day, whether it is being involved in the NAACP or in class helping someone out with a problem. I want to set a positive example for my generation and the next. Being a positive role model is beneficial to others, but it can also positively impact you as well. When you are focus on your legacy and future, opportunities present themselves. This is where the saying "You can get anywhere from here "becomes reality.

In conclusion this quote relates to our past, present and our future because it means learn from the past and learn from it now to build a better future. We must continue to move forward and not repeat the past. Our actions today will affect the future. W.E.B. Du Bois said it best "Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our

best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime.”

### Works Cited

*Quotes About The Future*. (2013, October 18). Retrieved from Inspirational Quotes:

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