

Haftarah for the 50th Anniversary of Dr: Martin Luther King Jr:'s Beyond Vietnam speech (excerpted from the speech by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, set to trope by Hazzan Abbe Lyons) - **highlights**

I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world
revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of
values ✦ We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented"
society to a "person-oriented" society ✦ When machines and
computers, profit motives and property rights are considered
more important than people, the giant triplets of racism,
materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered:
A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring
contrast of poverty and wealth ✦
A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and
say of war "This way of settling differences is not just" ✦ A

nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death ✦

Our only hope today lies in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go out into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism, and militarism ✦

With this powerful commitment we shall boldly challenge the status quo and unjust mores and thereby speed the day when "every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain" ✦

A genuine revolution of values means in the final analysis that our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional ✦

Every nation must now develop an overriding loyalty to humankind as a whole in order to preserve the best in their individual societies :

This call for a world-wide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all life :

Love has now become an absolute necessity for the survival of humanity : When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response; I am speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as the supreme unifying principle of life :

Love is somehow the key that unlocks the door which leads to ultimate reality : We can no longer afford to worship the god of

hate or bow before the altar of retaliation ✦

The oceans of history are made turbulent by the ever-rising tides of hate : History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path of hate ✦

We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today ✦

We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now ✦ In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late ✦

Over the bleached bones and jumbled-residue of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words "Too late" ✦ We still have a choice today; nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation ✦ If we do not act we shall surely be dragged down the long dark and shameful corridors of time reserved for those

who possess power without compassion, might without
 morality, and strength without sight ✨ Now let us begin - Now
 let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter - but beautiful
 - struggle for a new world ✨ The choice is ours, and though we
 might prefer it otherwise we must choose in this crucial moment
 of human history ✨

Notes on trope setting: Since this is in English, in the opposite direction from Hebrew, where I could switch the direction of the trope marks, I did so. In particular, note that mapach, munach and t'vir are in the Hebrew direction and this may occasionally be at odds with other tropes being in the English direction. Because they appear singly rather than in mirror image, I always doubled T'lisha g'dolah, in order to distinguish it from T'lisha k'tanah. With a few exceptions, wherever there was a period, I put a sof pasuk, even if this resulted in a pretty short or a very long verse. For the quote from Isaiah 40:4 (every valley shall be exalted, every mountain and hill made low, the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain) I took the trope for the English from the Masoretic setting of the Hebrew. With King decrying the triplets of racism, materialism and militarism at the heart of the speech, I strove to use the trope to emphasize these concepts with tropes that cried out. Sometimes the triplets were listed in a different order or with different words. There are also phrases where I stretched the trope melody over two or three words in a way that would not be needed in Hebrew, which is a denser language which often requires less words than English.

These excerpts selected by Rabbi Waskow take less than 7 minutes to chant, consisting primarily of the passages Rabbi Waskow highlights as essential.. There is a longer version which takes 15 minutes. In addition to the quote from Isaiah, it includes a quote from John about how G-d dwells within us when we humans love one another. King's scathing denunciation detailing specific scourges of capitalism and war are included in the longer version, but not in this shorter version.