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## In memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Federico Arcos

April 6, 1968

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sent by friend of author  
from *Momentos*, 1976

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### **You knew**

Yes,  
you knew it.  
You knew that death stalked you.  
You knew it with certainty.  
Your black brothers knew it  
and your white brothers knew it.  
We all knew that you were going to leave us,  
your life cut short, suddenly,  
violently,  
with that swift, cruel, inhuman impact  
that has abruptly ended so many lives.  
Today you leave us orphaned of your words,  
of your apostolic presence,  
and your prophetic vision.  
America is orphaned.  
What a grief! What a grief, America!  
What a grief! What a grief oh World!  
But all Mankind

cannot lose your soul  
because you have blessed us  
with the best of your essence.  
Yes, human feelings  
could not survive  
without this inheritance  
you have bequeathed us.