



Justina Wong

is a senior at Independence High School. Justina has hopes of going to medical school to become a surgeon and help as many people as possible. She enjoys running, reading and listening to music when not pursuing her studies. She would like to attend Ohio State University, College of Wooster, Hiram College, or Ohio Wesleyan University.

“Ching-Chong.” I grimace at such harsh and biting words spoken by a white individual trying to mimic my Chinese language. Feelings of anger, contempt, sadness, sorrow, shame, depression all accumulated together into one, creating a deep hole in my gut as I inadvertently started to hate my own culture. The bitterness I felt could not fight back the tears that crept from my eyes, forever traumatized by this depressing memory. I became shameful of my own culture, never believing in the value of being different from everyone else. I became contemptuous against society’s racial injustice. Why was it all right for people to chastise others of a different ethnicity? I could not understand the full intentions of people who blatantly perform acts of hatred, discrimination, and prejudice towards members of a different ethnicity. I often wondered what made it justifiable to discriminate against these people who were often victimized. Weren’t we living in a state of equality and justice? Are we still living in one today?

While some white members of society view themselves superior above others, across society, groups of different ethnicities are subject to belittlement and acts of racial slander, unwilling and unable to fight back at their perpetrator because of fear and a lack of courage. Ultimately, these victims of racial discrimination become silent and powerless as the evil triumphs over them. As Edmund Burke had sarcastically expressed, as “good men do nothing,” the bad men will inevitably gain even more power over the weak, shamelessly giving into corruption and sheer chicanery without restraint and discretion.

In order to prevent racial discrimination in society today, it is deemed necessary to take personal responsibility as a means to fight discrimination. Instead of shielding oneself from the horrors of racism, it is vital for the “good men” to muster enough courage and bravery to meet its maker, ready to speak out against its injustice and inequality. From the notable words of Martin Luther King, Jr, if the victimized become silent and immovable to acts of discrimination, their silence will be remembered rather than “the words of [the perpetrators].” To increase awareness and knowledge of different cultures will encourage people to gain a new perspective of other cultures. Thus, they change as individuals, building a long stream of appreciation, tolerance, and understanding of people of all races and cultural backgrounds. As a high school student, I began a proposal for a cultural organization doing just this: broadening students’ perspectives of different cultures through food, music, language, and dance. This new club will hopefully give other students a sense of awareness and develop supreme respect and appreciation of all of God’s people. As one of the most important objectives of this club, I aim to connect the whole school to a wide spectrum of diversity and strengthen our tolerance of all persons in society. If this is accomplished, I believe our school will gain utmost responsibility and seek the will to speak out about fighting discrimination and bringing diversity back in.