

Great Speakers- Winston Churchill vs. Martin Luther King

What do you know about Churchill and King? What attributes do you think they must have had in common?

Winston Churchill- We Shall Fight on the Beaches.

We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and 1....., we shall fight with growing confidence and growing 2..... in the air, we shall defend our 3....., whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets,

we shall fight in the hills; we shall never 4....., and even if- which I do not for a moment believe- this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and 5....., then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would 6..... the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its 7..... and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old."

What was the context of this speech? What was the fight Churchill refers to?

Martin Luther King- We Shall Overcome.

We Shall Overcome! Deep in my heart I do 8..... we shall overcome.

Now I join hands often with students and others behind jail bars singing it: "We shall overcome."

Sometimes we've had 9..... in our eyes when we joined together to sing it, but we still decided to sing it! "We shall overcome." Lord before this victory is won some will have to get 10..... in jail some more but we shall overcome.

11..... about us, before the victory is won some of us will lose jobs, but we shall overcome. Before the victory is won, even some will have to face physical death. But if physical death is the 12..... that some must pay to free their children from a permanent psychological death.. then nothing shall be more redemptive- We shall overcome. Before the victory is won some will be 13..... and called bad names and dismissed as rebel-rousers and agitators, but we shall overcome- and I'll tell you why:

We shall overcome because the arch of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.

We shall overcome because Carlyle is right: "No 14..... can live forever".

We shall overcome because William Collin Bryant is right: "Truth crushed to earth will 15..... again".

We shall overcome because James Russel Lowell is right: "Truth forever on the scaffold.. Wrong forever on the throne, yet that scaffold sways the future. Behind the dim unknown standeth God within the shadows,

16 watch above his own"*.

We shall overcome because the 17 is right... "You shall reap what you sow.

"We shall overcome - Deep in my heart I do believe! We shall overcome.

And this with this 18..... we will go out and adjourn the counsels of despair and bring new light into the dark chambers of pessimism. And we will be able to rise from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of 19..... And this will be a great America! We will be the participants in making it so.

And so as I leave you this evening I say: "20..... children! Don't you get weary!"

What was the context of this speech? What was the struggle King refers to?

1. What is the modern use of 'shall'? How does it differ with its use in these speeches?
2. What do they have in common, and how do they differ, in terms of a) style b) aim c) tone d) vocabulary?
3. Which do you prefer? Why?

* "Verdad para siempre en el cadalso, el mal para siempre en la trono. Sin embargo, en ese cadalso tambalea el futuro. Detrás de la tenue desconocido está Dios en la sombra, vigilando los suyos."