

**HOLIDAYS & HEROES**

*Let's Celebrate*

**MARTIN LUTHER  
KING JR. DAY**



BY Barbara deRubertis • ILLUSTRATED BY Gershom Griffith

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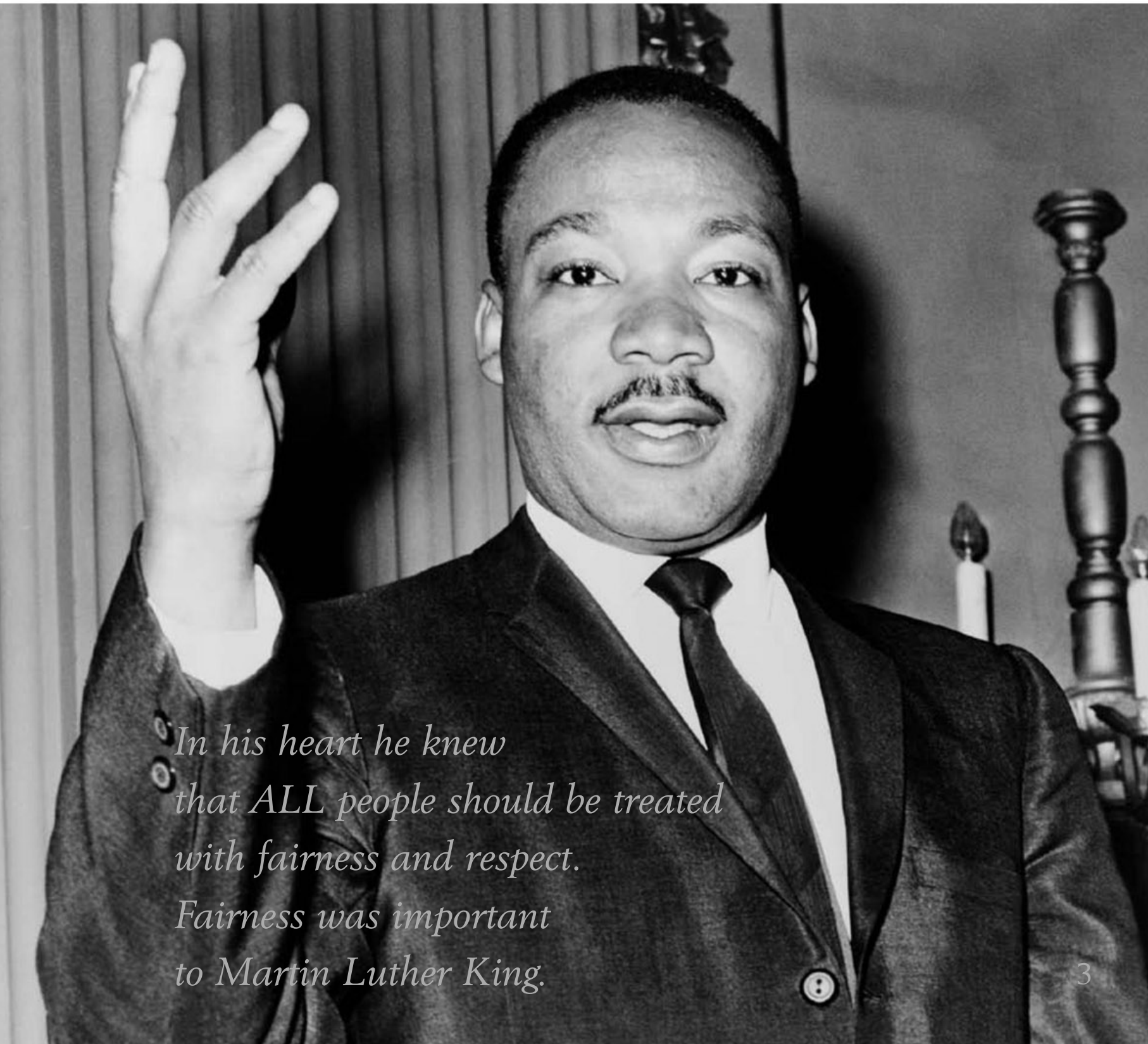


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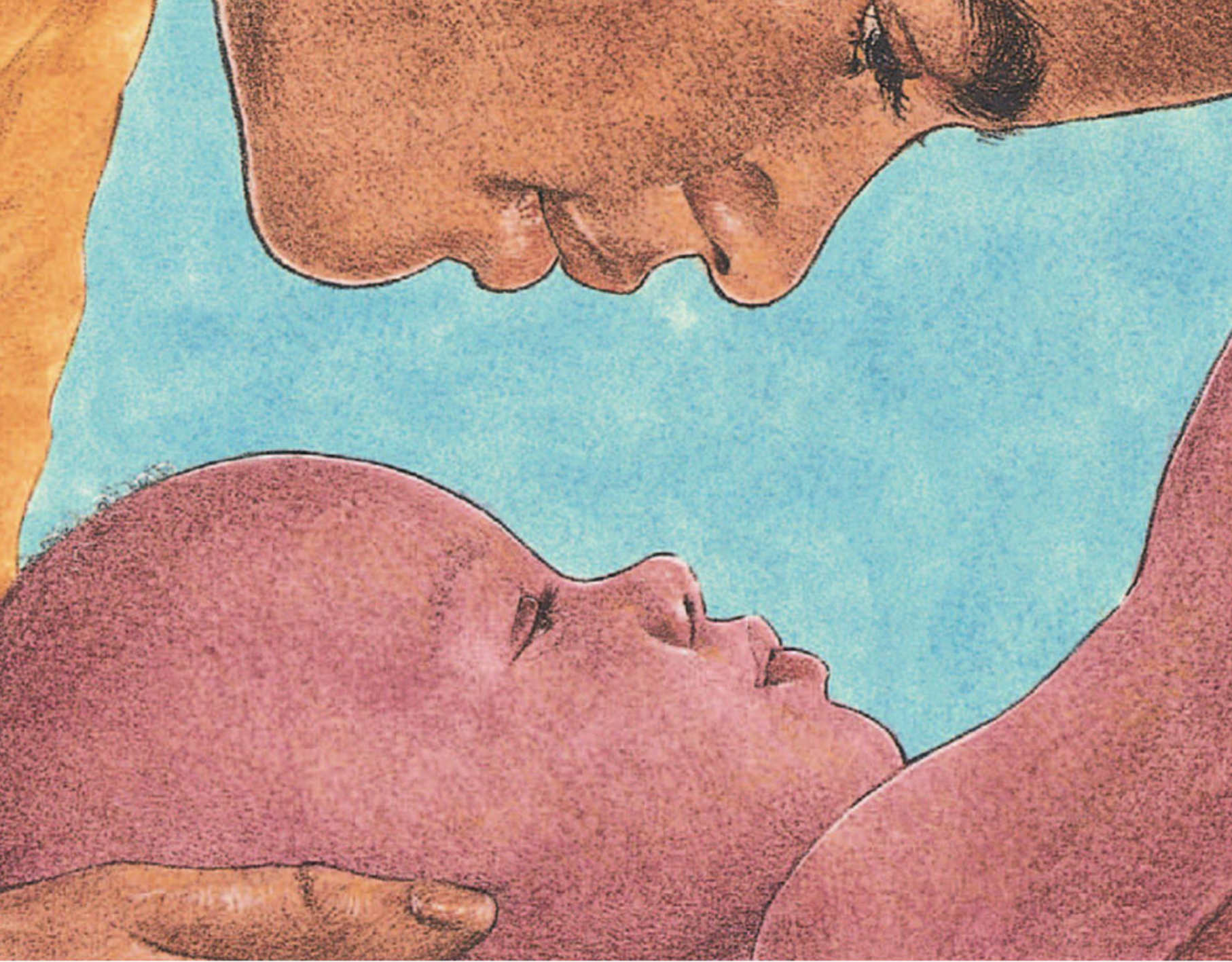
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On the third Monday of January, we celebrate the birthday of an important American, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King worked hard to change laws and attitudes that were unfair and hurtful to black people.



*In his heart he knew  
that ALL people should be treated  
with fairness and respect.  
Fairness was important  
to Martin Luther King.*



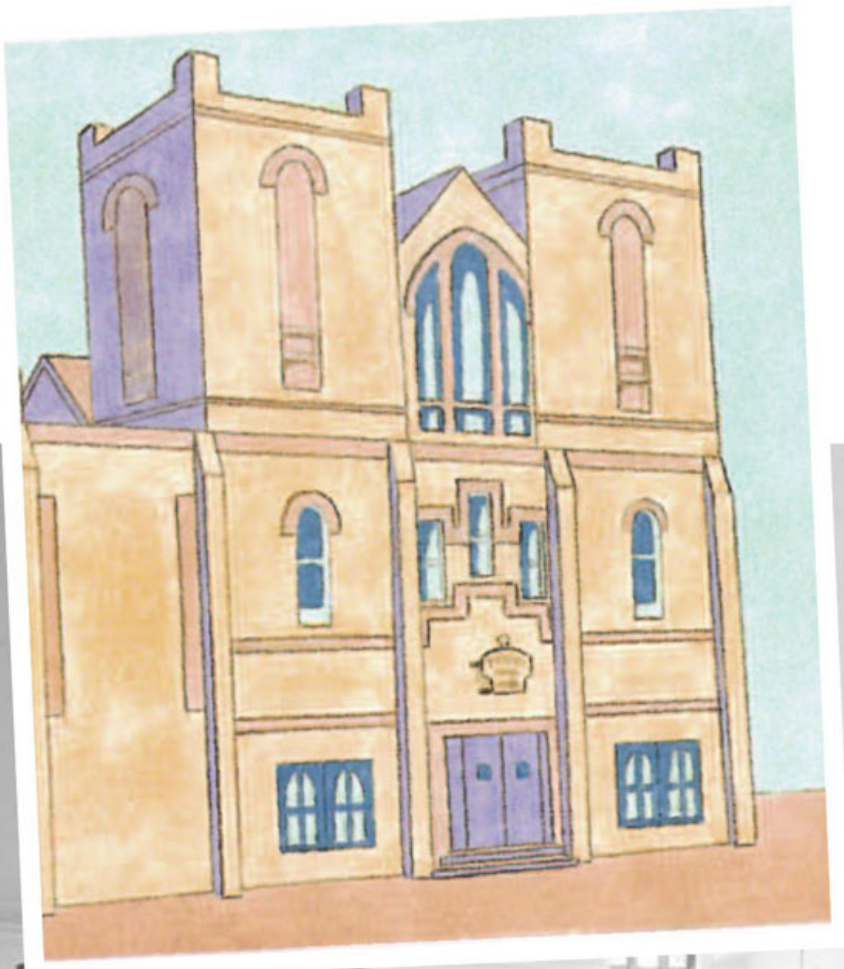
Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. His mother hugged her beautiful baby boy. His father was so happy, he jumped up and touched the ceiling!

Martin's parents were living with his mother's parents in a big house on Auburn Avenue. Martin already had an older sister. The next year, his younger brother was born.

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Martin's grandfather was the pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church. When Martin was two, his grandfather died. Martin's father, Martin Luther King Sr., became the new pastor of the church.

Thirty years later, Martin would also become a pastor at this same church!



Ebenezer Baptist Church,  
Atlanta, Georgia



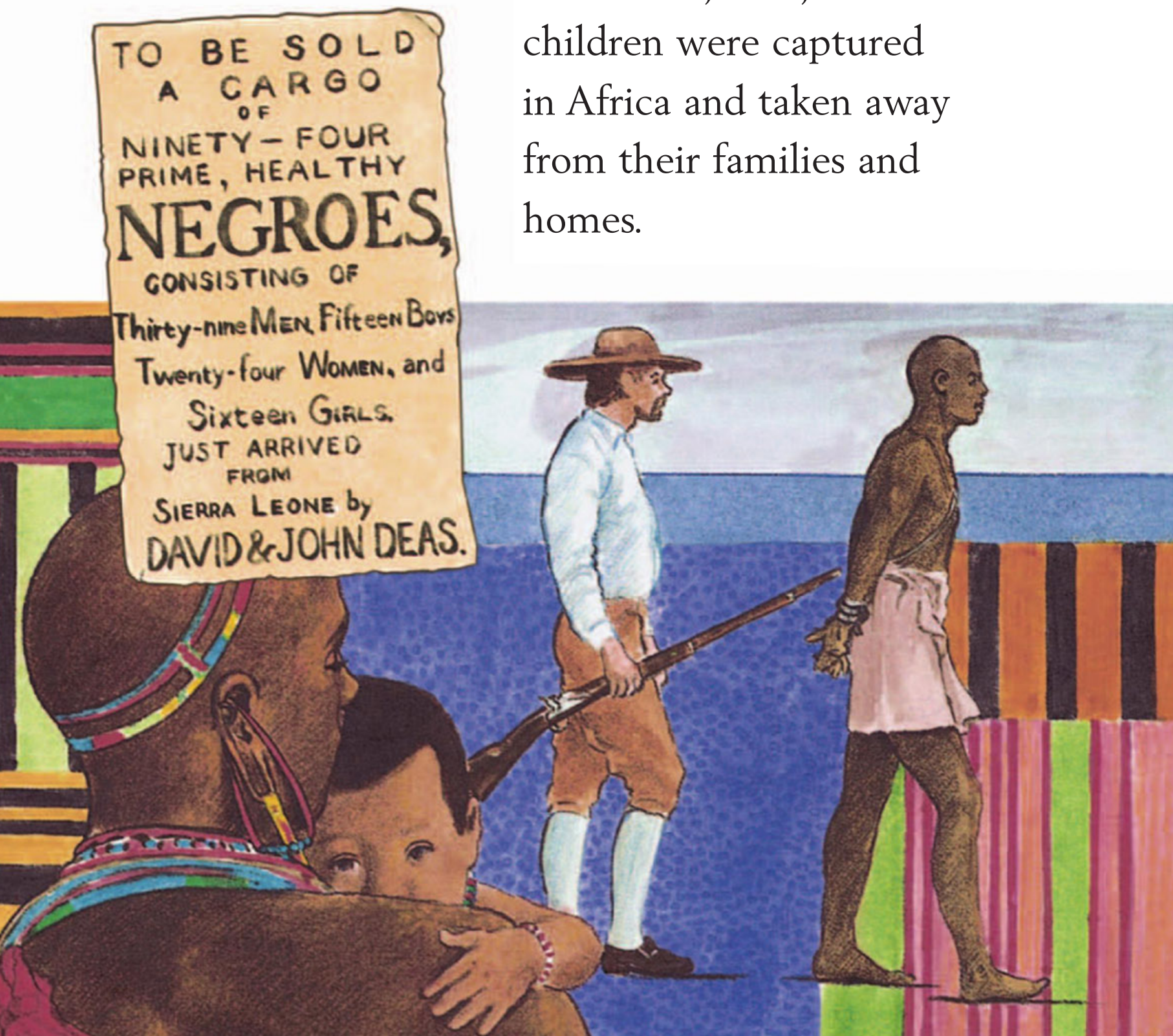
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Martin's family knew very little about their ancestors—family members who lived a long time ago. But like most black Americans, they knew that many of their ancestors probably had been slaves.

For hundreds of years, African people were brought to America to work as slaves.

Women, men, and children were captured in Africa and taken away from their families and homes.



TO BE SOLD  
A CARGO  
OF  
NINETY-FOUR  
PRIME, HEALTHY  
**NEGROES,**  
CONSISTING OF  
Thirty-nine MEN, Fifteen BOYS  
Twenty-four WOMEN, and  
Sixteen GIRLS.  
JUST ARRIVED  
FROM  
SIERRA LEONE by  
DAVID & JOHN DEAS.



Sweet potato planting, Hopkinson's Plantation

They were then chained up and put on crowded ships. If they survived the terrible voyage across the ocean, they were sold as slaves when they reached America.

In 1865, slavery finally ended in the United States. But when Martin Luther King was born, there were still many serious problems left over from the time of slavery.

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Especially in the South, black people were treated as if they were not as good as white people. Black people were kept separate—or “segregated”—from white people.

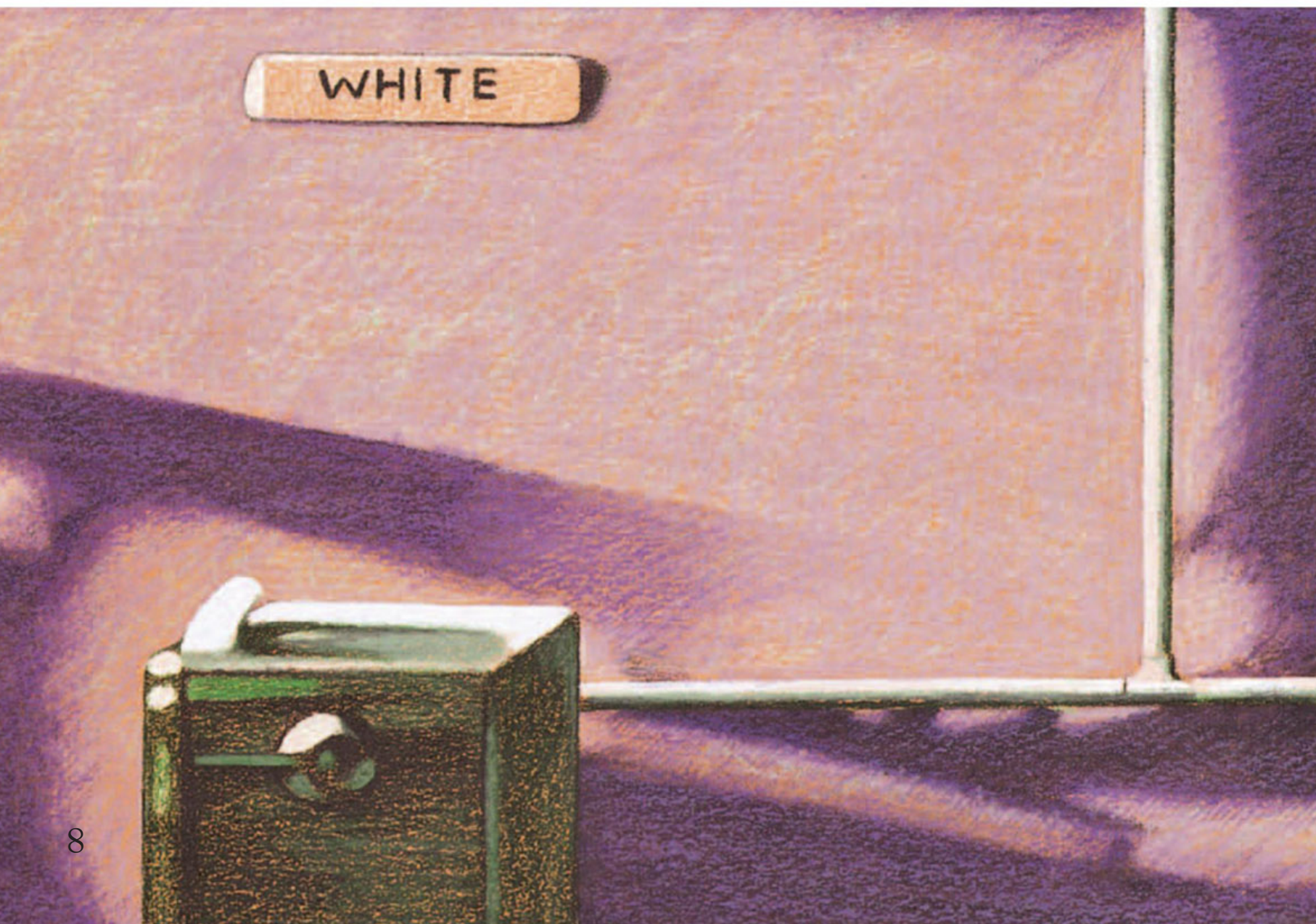
In the South, segregation was everywhere.

*Neighborhoods. Churches. Schools.*

*Swimming pools. Libraries. Parks.*

*Restaurants. Buses. Stores.*

*Restrooms. Elevators. Water fountains.*



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