

Gretchen M. Bataille and Albert L. McHenry, eds. *Living the Dream in Arizona: The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (Tempe: Arizona State University, 1992) 106 pp., \$10.00 paper.

Living the Dream in Arizona, edited by Gretchen M. Bataille and Albert L. McHenry, is at first glance a tidy, unpretentious little book. Subtitled "The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.," this work is, in effect, a series of testimonies by a multicultural chorus of Arizonans. Each voice speaks plainly about the meaning of the struggle for dignity, opportunity, and equality. As unpretentious as this work is, it is also informative; the words of the contributors are—in the spirit of Dr. King's life—challenging and provocative. There is more than meets the eye in the one hundred and six pages of *Living the Dream* . . .

The four chapters in the book—"Arizona: The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.," "Arizona: The History," "Arizona: The People," and "Arizona: The Future"—are brief and to the point. The thesis developed in this book is that the road to justice has been a long one in Arizona and that it has been traveled by an ethnically diverse group of men and women.

I believe the most compelling of the four chapters is the second, "Arizona: The History." This chapter contains twelve largely anecdotal pieces which—although brief—give us a reprise of Arizona's racial and ethnic history. These histories reveal much about the struggles of Jews, Native Americans, Latinas, and African Americans long before the modern-day civil rights movement was underway. There is a wealth of historical information and perspective in this section. While the "stories" are brief, they do provide an ethnographic mosaic of life in Arizona. An example of this is Melanie Sturgeon's "Phoenix: Through the Eyes of the *Tribune*." Sturgeon writes of this black newspaper's role as chronicler and reporter of the black experience. Sturgeon's piece tells us much about the accomplishments and contributions of Phoenix's black community. The brief pieces by Stocker (p. 31), Marin (p. 34), Maldonado (p. 38), and Edamatsu (p. 41) are equally enlightening.

I believe that this book makes an important installment on reconstructing Arizona's ethnic and race relations history. It is replete with pithy essays about these subjects. If there is a shortcoming of *Living the Dream*, it is the general brevity of the essays. More development would have doubtless expanded the scope and depth of information about Arizona and the people who have committed themselves to shaping a society more in line with the dream for which Dr. King gave his life.

— Otis Scott
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