We Shall Overcome

I stand there, next to the Washington monument. A giant obelisk, shining in the sun’s hopeful Light which peeks through the dark clouds. The voice of Martin Luther King Jr. rumbles through the audience. He inspires us by slicing the darkness using the blade of hope that he gives us. We will overcome the darkness not because we are strong and intelligent, not because we crush our enemies, but because we have hope and we befriend our enemies and help them see the light.

This poem was inspired by the painting *We Shall Overcome* by Lois Mailou Jones.