

## READINGS FOR 11/6/16

### Courage and Conscience by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Courage is an inner resolution to go forward despite obstacles;  
Cowardice is submissive surrender to circumstances.  
Courage breeds creativity; Cowardice represses fear and is mastered by it.

Cowardice asks the question, is it safe?  
Expediency asks the question, is it politic?  
Vanity asks the question, is it popular?

But conscience asks the question, is it right? And there comes a time when we must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because it is right.  
MLK, Jr.

### We Were Made For These Times (excerpts)

Clarissa Pinkola Estes

American poet, post-trauma specialist and Jungian psychoanalyst, author of *Women Who Run With the Wolves*.

My friends, do not lose heart. We were made for these times. Ours is a time of almost daily astonishment and often righteous rage over the latest degradations of what matters most to civilized, visionary people.

I urge you, ask you, gentle you, to please not spend your spirit dry by bewailing these difficult times. Especially do not lose hope. The fact is that we were made for these times. **Yes, for years, we have been learning, practicing, been in training for and just waiting to meet on this exact plain of engagement.** You are like a great ship of enlightenment that recognizes its own on the turbulent waters of anger and despair.

We are needed, that is all we can know. *Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.*

One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Soul on deck shines like gold in dark times. Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it.

I hope you will write this on your wall: When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. **But that is not what great ships are built for.**

(There is a much longer version which can be found on-line.)