

President Obama Marks March on Washington's 50th Anniversary (Video Transcript, August 28, 2013)

“Reignite the Embers of Empathy”

The March on Washington teaches us that we are not trapped by the mistakes of history; that we are masters of our fate. But it also teaches us that the promise of this nation will only be kept when we work together. **We'll have to reignite the embers of empathy and fellow feeling**, the coalition of conscience that found expression in this place 50 years ago.

And I believe that spirit is there, that truth force is inside each of us. I see it when a white mother recognizes her own daughter in the face of a poor black child. I see it when the black youth thinks of his own grandfather in the dignified steps of an elderly white man. It's there in the native-born recognizing that striving spirit of the new immigrant; when the interracial couple connects the pain of a gay couple who are discriminated against and understands it as their own.

That's where courage comes from -- when we turn not from each other, or on each other, but towards one another, and we find that we do not walk alone. That's where courage comes from. And with that courage we can stand together.