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Palida Netayasupha

Martin Luther

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In the sixteenth century, the world of Catholic is recognized as a spiritual breakthrough era which resulted in the critical step of religious revolutionary of Catholic Church and European empire. This was the critical stage of major turning point in Western history. The story of this great man who changed the world's history of Western rules is widely recognized for a long time. A train of his revolution could reshape the Western civilization in the dark ages of European region. This is the story of great man with his great triumph who opposed the strong power of Europe and Catholic Church and confronted with the thunderstorm of spiritual beliefs. Martin Luther is not only a revolutionary thinker, but also the hero of the new world who built the bridge between Medieval and Modern age. Martin Luther was extraordinary monk who could change the Western history of the most powerful Catholic institution into the modern world of freedom and liberty. The following essay is aimed to provide the background information of Martin Luther and his outstanding works.

The life of Martin Luther is recognized as the most fascinating history of Christian society. His life is quite colorful since it is consisted of various stuffs such as parental conflict, spiritual agony, popes, emperors, controversy, politics, revolution, humor and so on. Martin Luther was born in 1483, near modern Berlin¹. Martin Luther was the eldest of seven

¹ John M. Fritzius. "Martin Luther.", *Tlogical*. 7 Sep 2012. <<http://www.tlogical.net/bioluther.htm#1>>

children in a middle-class family in Germany. Luther was brought up in the strict and honest atmosphere. He had been unusual feeling in sensitivity and religious beliefs. This enabled him to become the great reformer of the modern world. His characteristics were strong, clear and simple. He was a German theologian, Augustinian monk and reformer. His father was a copper miner. His father desired to send his son to work for civil service and bring honor to his family. This was the ultimate aspiration for his father and family. He was sent to the high school before entering the University of Erfurt. He gained a Bachelor degree in 1502 and Master degree in 1505². After that he enrolled in the law school of the same University. He decided to become a lawyer since he wanted to raise the family status of success. He also became the law teacher which resulted in the great honor for his family. As a lecturer, he had to study the Scriptures and Bible. According to the in-depth study, he was interested in penance and righteousness. These two words were very meaningful for his life. He began to teach the truth of salvation as a gift of god. Furthermore, he served as a preacher and confessor at the church. The performance of his duties inspired him to confront with truth of indulgences on human lives. As a priest, he concerned about the spiritual welfare of people. He was ordained as a monk in 1507. In his private life, he married Katharina who was a nun in 1523. He had six children that were not notable. Although he was the great and famous priest, it was believed that he had temper problem and bad habit of drunkenness. In his old age, Martin Luther suffered from health problem which encourage him to be crazy. He had a problem with ulcer, kidney and poor digestive system³. Finally, he died of several natural causes in 1546. His corpse was buried in the Castle Church after living for 63 years old.

² John M. Fritzius. "Martin Luther." *Tlogical*. 7 Sep 2012. <<http://www.tlogical.net/bioluther.htm#1>>

³ Susan L. Peterson. "The Life of Martin Luther." *Susan Lynn Peterson*. 7 Sep 2012. <<http://www.susanlynnpeterson.com/luther/late.html>>

The individualism of Renaissance era motivated people to challenge the power of Roman Catholic Church as the central world authority. A lot of people began to feel unsatisfied with Roman Catholic activities and well-being habits of members since they found that the official of Roman Catholic Church had luxurious lifestyle and scandal activities. In addition, church leaders launch a financial campaign for a large building project. Luther disclosed the big corruption on church financing⁴. He claimed that Roman Catholic Church did the wrong things since the Bible authority depended on God, not the Pope. He encouraged the worshipping God through praise and singing. He really wanted to change the Roman Catholic Church since there was the conflict between his beliefs and practices of Church⁵. He strongly disagreed with granting and selling indulgences because the forgiveness was belonged to the Gods. His written document posted on the door of church was very well-known in 1517. This document was a list of the corruption and abusing way of power that the Church used. This scandal news of Roman Catholic Church was quickly spread throughout German and other areas due to the beginning of printing press business. It was the foundation of Protestant Reformation which transformed from religious issue to the political topic. While the press was widespread through Europe, people began to accept the Luther's theory as the religious practice. The beginning of Protestant was originated from these reasons in 1517 and it was the end of war between Lutherans and Catholics⁶. The

⁴ Rit Nosotro. "Martin Luther." *Hyperhistory*. 7 Sep 2012.
<http://www.hyperhistory.net/apwh/bios/b2mluther_p1ij.htm>

⁵Green, Vivian Hubert Howard. *Luther and the Reformation*. 1964. P.42-50

⁶James Swan. "The Roman Catholic Perspective of Martin Luther (Part One)." *Sharpens*. 9 Sep 2012
<<http://tquid.sharpens.org/catlut1.htm>>

outstanding work of Luther is Luther's German Bible. He translated the New Testament into German so as to erode the influence of priests. During his translation, he went to nearby town and markets to listen their spoken language for the perfect translation. His first full Bible in German was published in 1534. Works and thoughts of Luther still play a vital role in the religious beliefs of the Protestant world.

In conclusion, Martin Luther played a key role in Protestant Reformation in Germany. He is the important historical person in the world legend of Western Religious. He challenged the power of Catholic Church and Pope. With a unique personality, Martin Luther used the pen and paper as a weapon to express his concern about church corruption problem and false authority of the official. After painstaking efforts of Luther, there was a massive support for his teaching which was the origin of Protestant as a new religion of Western Empire. The great reformer left many works and achievements after his death such as translation of entire bible into German, Freedom of Christian and so on. Luther is admired for his religious revolution of Catholic Church. His strong desire and aspiration could change the dark side of religious world into the better society.