Crozer Theological Seminary
Placement Committee:
Confidential Evaluation of
Martin Luther King, Jr., by Raymond J. Bean

4 February 1951
Chester, Pa.

Bean taught King in two courses, Outline History of Christianity and American Christianity.

Mr. King is the outstanding student in his class and one who would be outstanding in any institution. His work is always of the highest grade. The few questions he has asked in class have revealed a real interest in the subject under discussion.

I think Mr. King will always be a credit to Crozer. It is gratifying to know that he plans to continue for his doctorate.

THFmS. CRO-NRCR.

“The Origin of Religion in the Race”

[9 February 1951]
[Chester, Pa.]

King wrote this paper for Davis’s Philosophy of Religion course. In the essay, which is largely drawn from D. Miall Edwards’s The Philosophy of Religion, King examines various philosophical and anthropological arguments for the origin of religion. The word “race” in the title refers to the human race, not a particular group. Davis gave King an A and praised his “thoughtful, critical analysis.”

The question of the origin of religion in the human race still remains one of the insoluble mysteries confronting the mind of man. Men have attempted to solve this problem through scientific research, only to find that the results lead to inevitable antinomies.