

CAN'T SLEEP

Can't sleep
minds race
indeed
in the dead of night

Fueled by rage
haunted by horrendous conditions
my people are conditioned
to endure
endlessly we implore
for we are
the African diaspora

Can't sleep
longing for a collective agency
for a black revolution
an active movement
a charge
a call to arms
to action

Let's sit in
stand up
stand tall
say it loud
you're Black
be proud

Push back
fight back
revolt
for what's right
against this constant struggle
for equality and justice
or there will be
no peace!

Can't sleep
my eyes are tired
but still I lay 'wake
heart full with ache
for each brother man
my brothas man
brothas united
bonded as one

Not by blood
but it flows with a thickness
coursing through our veins
a brotherhood the likes
of Malcolm
of Hampton
of King
held with a reverence
unexplained
did they live
or did they die in vain?

Can't sleep
cause I fear
for the next generation
at bay in the rafters
anxious in the wings
those Black human beings

With no
liberation army
no Black movement party
to join
idolize
or emulate
no longer a revolution to document
we can only speculate

I say
I can't sleep
while thousands
no millions
lay huddled on a cot
body and mind locked down

Sanity slowly ebbing
like the waves
as we lay quivering in the dark
physically and mentally
losing our grip
reminiscent of how we cowered
in the hulls of those ships

No lights to see
lights out
Shouts the over'see
empowered to assiduously
stand guard
with focus to extinguish
the movement's vanguard

Annihilated Black futures
remnants of a capitalistic lure
the root of our constant suffer
as a people
we can't take much more
understand the refuge Garvey spoke of
it IS the essence of our sovereignty
it IS the cure!

Can't sleep
encased
entombed
behind concrete gray walls
caged like animals behind bars

Yearning for freedom
a return home
not to that white picket fence
or that project tenement
rather the bosom of our
African motherland

Can't sleep
so I lay awake
reflecting on second guessed life choices
still no choices deem
this existence
these unjust results

these biased cruel lessons
just painful reminders
of the reality
of practiced oppressions

Can't sleep
so I stay awake with you my brotha
and you my brotha
and youuu myyyy brothaaaaaaa
who can't sleep
in that cell
on that cot
behind those concrete walls
and cast iron bars

Can't sleep
I'd rather lay awake
until my last dying breath
then to succumb to the reality
of my people's broken dreams!

AFRIKAN

Are you Afrikan?
Is your nose broad?
Can you clearly smell the hate?
Against your people
a stench disguised
as tolerance and inclusion

Are you Afrikan?
Are your lips full with the gift of gab?
Singing sweet melodies
Like queens in the cotton field
yearning to be set free

Are you Afrikan?
Does your hair curl to a nap
Does it hold its form
through the strongest wind storm

Are you Afrikan?
Are you Afrikan?
Are you mute
Without your native tongue
Void of a sense of ancestry
searching for the words
to guide you home

Are you Afrikan?
Do you long for the embrace
of your motherland
Waiting patiently
for your people
to take a stand
Walk hand in hand
With heads held high
Hear my cry
Equality we can no longer
be denied
My pride will never die

I AM AFRIKAN!

Ode to Eric Garner

Another candlelight
shine bright
flicker with light
for a soul that has taken flight
injustice runs rampant
at the hands of those sworn to protect it
they came to intimidate
trying to infiltrate

Protest signs held high
the signs all there
fuck the police
no pluck the corrupt police
those that abuse their power
make a bad name of ours

Officer what fueled you that day
why did you feel it was crucial
to kill that way
why did you have to murder
my son
my father
my friend
my blood
my black brotha
my kin

Taking a life
that never threatened yours
you go each day oblivious
to the pain you cause
do you even realize you've sinned?
Were you high on authority
or just coming down on the freedom of Blacks
You're driven to hate for no reason
with no remorse
do you even realize
your action was coarse?

What course will we take
to rectify
Hell - solidify

our place
in the world
Be given justice
without it
there is no peace!
No justice, no peace
No justice, no peace

At the end of the day's
last rays of light
those candles will
forever burn bright
until no more Black souls
have taken that impromptu flight
flickering in the night
reborn as
another
candlelight

Hands Up! Don't Shoot!

Treyvonne wear your gray hoodie
Hell go get some skittles
It's ok

Hands up! Don't shoot!

Mike Brown those cigars
didn't get smoked
Instead the police smoked you
You had no weapon
No intent on harm
Just a reckless teen
Decision poor that day

Hands up! Don't shoot!

Tamir play cops and robbers
Toy guns and
park games at twelve
It's what you're supposed to do

Hands up! Don't shoot!

Akai this is your building
Your home
The elevator
The stairs
It's your choice

Hands up! Don't shoot!

Eric
You can chill on that corner
Breathing
Feeling breezy
'Til it's time to go home
to your daughters and sons

Hands up! Don't shoot!

Blacks gunned downed
Hands up

By a rookie
Don't shoot
By a veteran
Hands up
By a rogue
Don't shoot
By a racist
Hands up
By the biased laws
Set to annihilated

Don't shoot!