

## I AM TRAYVON

Please tell me it was all a bad dream  
Please tell me this is 2013, not 1813  
Please tell me that Martin's dream is not still just a dream  
Please tell me that Mandela didn't spend 27 years in prison  
To see this still, as he prepares to meet his maker  
Please tell me that the state of Florida did not just declare open season on my  
people  
Please tell me that "the color of a man's skin" is not yet  
"of no more significance than the color of his eyes" <sup>1</sup>

You see, I AM Sybrina Fulton  
I AM Trayvon Martin  
I am a mother  
I am a human being  
With a soul that feels  
The pain of injustice  
The heartache of inequality  
The agony of inertia  
As we watch this happen again, and again, and again...

You see, Sanford is not an anomaly  
(In my city they call it Stop and Frisk—  
Oh, my bad, "Stop, Question and Frisk")  
It happens in Brooklyn,  
It happens in Detroit  
It happens around the world  
And we have to begin to love ourselves  
No, I mean really love ourselves,  
Before this will ever change

I have 2 black sons  
And 2 black daughters, and

What I teach them about this world  
What I teach them about this country,  
What I teach them about this town they live in  
I also teach them to have hope  
I also teach them that the world is changing every day  
That although some things are changing, some things stay the same  
And I teach them that they can be that change  
My sons are only 10 and 13  
But I teach them how to behave when-- not if-- stopped by police  
I teach them not to patronize a business that treats them unfairly  
I taught them about Emmett Till,  
And told them that it was a time past, though not so long ago  
And now I stand pictures of Emmett and Trayvon side by side  
And it feels as though time has stood still

You see, my sons are Trayvon Martin,  
My sons are Emmett Till  
I am Trayvon Martin  
I am Emmett Till  
I am a human being  
My soul aches  
My heart bleeds  
For "Injustice anywhere  
Is a threat to Justice everywhere."<sup>2</sup>  
..just sayin'

*Footnotes:*

- 1- Haile Selassie I, *Address to the United Nations*, 1963
- 2- Martin Luther King, *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, 1963