

New Directions

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Poems

Editorial Staff

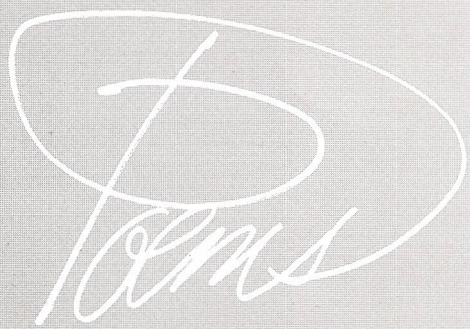
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Just Like You

I was born and I grew up...
just like you.

Those thoughts you had
of things you wouldn't do...
I had too;

And like you...
I watched 'em come and pass
in time.

I heard the "Classics" from my mammy,
too
just like you;

And always I wondered
what the hell did I do?

I heard her words of wisdom
just like you,

But like you I saw no need
to heed her forecast of doom;
I wanted my own experience...
just like you.

And like you, I went to school
to learn the "man's" way...

Only to find that I'd wasted my time
for no job could I do.

I grew in intellect...
just like you...
something employers refused to accept;
and like you
I lacked the skills needed to survive...
just like you.

With the guys and gals
I played the time-worn games...
just like you.

Until I learned
that what I had of value was
but the simple truth.

That journey you took
called 'finding yourself',
I made, too...
and like you I got lost,
But I learned there's more
than the mirror's image, or material
possessions...

And what's true today
may not be tomorrow.

And one day I will vanish
just like you...
Falling far short of all the things
I wanted to say... to see...
to have... to do...

Just like you.

Calvin Crawl
Howard University

The 'Phone Call: Part I

Take your feet off the desk
An' answer the 'phone!
An' if it's for me,
Say ah'm long gone...
Tell 'em ah lef' mah office
Over an hour ago,
An' where ah'm at now,
You jes don' know.
Get a move on ya now,
An' answer the 'phone;
An' if it's for me,
Say the sheriff's long gone—
Lookin' for the *whyat* man
Who pulled the trigger
That started all this hell
'Bout that uppity King nigger!
Now, hand me the bottle
An' answer the 'phone;
An' if it's for me,
Say ah'm long gone!

The 'Phone Call: Part II

Hello, HELLO! (Dammit!)
Who is this speaking?
MARTIN LUTHER KING? (Oh yeah!)
Well, the sheriff is out seeking
The one who did this thing (To ya)

Hello, HELLO! (Dammit, sheriff!)
We both heard that 'phone ring!!!
I answered an' a voice said:
"This is MARTIN LUTHER KING".
Now we know that THAT NIGRA IS
DEAD!
We'd best stop drinkin' this stuff...
It's gone to our head!!)

Hello, HELLO! Mr., I mean, MARTIN...
What did you say?
Findin' your killer is easy to do?
He's in Alabama, New York, Florida too?

28 He's in Georgia, Maine, Washington, D.C.?
New Jersey, Delaware and Tennessee?
Just look wherever white people hate
Black?

An' we can't miss bein' on the right track?
Hold on a minute ...
(Dammit, sheriff! Don't drink it all!
In mah whole life, I ain't had such a call!)

HELLO, HELLO!!! (Sh-sh-sh!!!)

I can't hear a thing—

Speak up, *nigra* ...

Where are you, King???

Don't laff, sheriff ...

HE WAS ON THE LINE!!!

An' 'fore Gawd, ah'm through drinkin'

MOONSHINE ...

Valerie Parks Brown

Howard University

Ode to a United Africa

Beat the drums of freedom
From the fajn shores of Ghana
To the hills of Kenya,
From Morocco's noble-crested Atlas
To the shores of Mozambique,
It is freedom now and ever.

Across the Sahara's rolling sands
To the fields of the Basutos
Let the air resound
With the echos of the drums, and
Proclaim freedom for ever and ever
And make Africa free for you and me.

Shout the song of unity
In the valleys and o'er the mountains,
In the mines of gold and diamonds ...
Copper, sulphur and uranium,
Streaming with the blood of your brother
and mine

Proclaim the glad refrain,
Of unity now and ever.

Shout aloud and frequent
Across our mighty land,
Five hundred million strong ...
From the Cape to Cairo,
the Niger to the Nile,
From the Atlantic to the Indies,
From Algeria to the Congo and the

Thru' the Suez let it echo,
And let every man his brother be.

O'er the mountains and the lakes,
In the cities and the villages
From Algeria to Zambia, Dakar to Dar-Es-
Salaam

On the lips of old and young,
The word is freedom and unity!!!
Till the chains of slavery
Are forever broken ...

Let us rally to the call of
The stellar star of freedom ...
Shining o'er the horizon
For a free Africa for free men,
From Mauritania to Madagascar
The star for you and me.
It is unity now and ever.

Enshrined in all its glory
The future of our land,
A fountain head of inspiration
The wondrous song of union
A beacon of benediction
Whose echo shall forever linger
In your heart and mine ...

K. Pobb-Asamani
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