

New Directions

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Poems

Editorial Staff

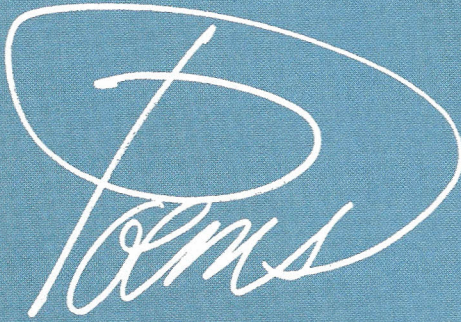
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In Mind Staff: Poems

I am Malcolm X
for i believe in the revolution
that blood shed will bring
a racist society to peace & justice
conflicting with
I am Crispus Attucks
for i would die first
in a good cause with my people
sensing
I am George Jackson
that i would escape
the clutches of the oppressor
for my freedom
wary that
I am Muhammad Ali
yes, i would stand and refuse war
but fight any challenger
for i am the greatest
yet in heart
I am Martin Luther King
believer and spreader
of peace and love
for a non-violent cause
dreamer of world unity
IN MIND, be at peace, i am me

Michael J. Johnson
Howard University

I Will Teach

My African Brother Tomorrow

My African brother is feasting tonight.
He is drunk with your image of the
American dream.

Tomorrow, when his head is clear,
I will teach him the language of
America.

I will show him her many faces.
I will tell him that sometimes soft
smiles camouflage hard hate.

Wilma D. Perry
Silver Spring, Md.

Between Dreams

I'm here too!
Here!
In the middle
There's release
Laboring quietly
Trying to move
I understand the doubting, I cry too
But I cannot help from this thin line
between dreams
I need help!
I cannot fall back! No, no, not to there!
I've been there
It's too crowded
I'm here, I'm here too!
In the middle
Here!

c. m. j., sr.
Washington, D. C.

Today

Ain't heard no bad news today.

No info about
Life-thefts in South Africa, about
Sellouts in Rhodesia, about
Jail-fillings in Umerica. No . . .
come to think about it, ain't heard
nothing bad at all.

Not about
Folks getting evicted, or about
Babies going hungry, or about
Students forever bookless.
All's quiet.
The Air's still.
Folks mum; ain't greeting me with
news about

No jobs, about
No shootings (and killings) about
No problems. But,
come to think of it,
South Africa was
Still stealing (yesterday), Zimbabwe was
Sold out (yesterday), Jails were
(re)Straining brothers (yesterday).
But I ain't heard . . . that furniture
Was on the streets (yesterday), babies
Were hungry (yesterday), schools
Were bookless (yesterday).
Things changed that much in 24?
No man, you just ain't
Read the newspapers (today),
Heard the radio (today),
Opened your eyes TODAY
Oh!

Peter Harris
Baltimore, Md.

Arbitration

Politics and strategies,
Secrets of great importance.
News releases, interviews,
Top level conferences.
Debates, discussions,
Sometimes filibusters.
Time seems endless.
Matters being weighed
Pros and cons
And eventually we have a maybe.
When neither party can agree
And no one seems to win
Then the poor man has everything
to gain.

Linda Elaine Newman
Howard University

NEW DIRECTIONS

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