Poems

Editorial Staff

Follow this and additional works at: http://dh.howard.edu/newdirections

Recommended Citation
Staff, Editorial (1979) "Poems," New Directions: Vol. 7: Iss. 1, Article 7.
Available at: http://dh.howard.edu/newdirections/vol7/iss1/7

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Directions by an authorized administrator of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact lopez.matthews@howard.edu.
I Am An Island

I am an island
my feet are sails
I sail the seas of the world.
In Africa I am an island
planted in three seas
I am Zanzibar
I am Goree
I am St. Thomas
I am the Georgia Sea Islands
Haiti is my spirit
Jamaica is my heart
You will find me in the sea
because I am an island
in the East and the West
Australia, New Guinea and Cuba
The Solomon Islands and Malagasy
Are elements in my Islandness.

Juanita Norman
Howard University

Just call me Black!
Now, some people call me red,
But I say: Just call me Black.
Some even refer to me as yellow
But I say: Just call me Black!
Others, still, call me tan or brown,
But I say: Just call me Black!
Many have referred to me as Colored
Meaning one of color. . . . What color?
Just call me Black!

Why call me Negro? It merely means black
In another language.
Why use such substitute words
To describe what color I am?
Just call me Black!
That is so direct, so accurate!
Now, those who call me nigger
Simply don’t realise that that is not a color.
Such mistitles, apologies, insults,
When you could just call me Black!

Black, because the blood of Africa flows
In my veins, proudly, powerfully,
Majestically and dominantly—
Dominantly, because of its color, black.
So, never mind all of the self-conscious,
Inaccurate, indirect, substitute words,
Just call me what I am—Black!

Juanita Norman
Howard University

Communications Process

I
Seldom do you get the chance to melt into another’s mind
Rarely does the fire burn without added stipulation
Seldom is verbal intercourse as fulfilling as the real thing for intellectual encounters can generate heat too
Seldom is relevant information exchanged among the masses
Never are such transmissions forgotten.

II
Talk to me and we’ll understand that we have more in common than our color
Tell me the things that you have gone through in life and we’ll see that our problems are one in the same
We can be united through conversation
your brother, my sister, and I all we need to do is open us and greet another Black mind.

Christopher S. Prince
Washington, D.C.

Some people become frustrated because you don’t jump on their bandwagon.
Set fire to their traveling side show and create your own concert.

Larry E. Cody
Washington, D.C.

If I could look into my future
What would life hold for me,
Would it be happy and carefree?
Will it bring joy or pain,
Prosperity or poverty,
Will there be laughter and love to see?
Although I cannot see what fate lies ahead
Life will be what I make it to be,
As long as I believe in me.

Beverly A. Lindsay
Howard University