To You Who Have Never Been Black

In view of all the Confusion,
Of nation's and Nationalities plight's
Of one race's issue to another human being,
And his deservance of his civil rights.

I wonder who gives him the right
To sit the civil pace,
And divide up all the nationalities
When we all, are the human race.

I fought your enemies by your side
Hoping you would recognize my valor,
But when all was won you turned on me
And forced me to live in squalor.

And when I sit-in and demonstrate
You say, there's no way to do,
But after a hundred years of this
I know that my enemy is you.

You say there's a right and wrong way
And I admit that's a natural fact,
But how can you tell me what's good for me
When you have never once been black?

And yet when other nations
Make minority groups their slaves,
You are the first one to cry out
Shame, shame on the way you behave.

But God doesn't like ugly children
Offtimes He has told us so,
Before the resurrection day,
We will reap just what we sow.

But when this whole thing is settled
And all is said and done,
God made all the races,
Let all the races be one.

And now that the end is drawing near
And we can only look back,
How can you tell me what's good for me
When you have never once been black?

PAUL B. REED SR.
TULSKA, OKLA.

Innermost Thoughts

On a cold lonely night I sit by myself,
wondering, sitting and staring all alone.
Wishing I had someone to share the moment with,
but yet still knowing in my mind that I'm better off alone
I wonder how many people in the world are the same as I?
How many people can feel the hurt and pain and still not cry?
Yet by myself in the corner of my room,
I'm sitting and staring at nothing but gloom.
I've been on this earth for forty years now
and it's been forty years of endless fears somehow.

My life's almost through and can never be the same,
Yet in my heart it seems a cruel shame.

I remember the times when I was young
and all my friends thought of nothing but fun.

My years were never trouble free,
but who can expect ghetto life to be full of glee.

I've spent my life as I thought I should,
most years were rough none were ever any good.

I sit back now and relax my mind,
I'm writing down things that I hope no one will ever find.

And still I'm not at peace with myself,
so I reach for a book atop the shelf.
I ease my heels upon my bed
and begin to read as I never had.
The first line of the book says it all.
It reminded me that my life hasn't exactly been a ball
and my life probably will never be because
nothing can be as good as it was
and nothing that was is as good as it is.

JAMES A. STAUNTON
TOLEDO, O.

the poetrie gallerie

Your Dreams are Your Dreams

Your dreams are your dreams
And they belong to no one else
When you make them a reality
You have then believed in yourself

Your dreams are your dreams
Please don't let them die
For without that dream
You are just like a dark cloud
In the sky.

Your dreams are your dreams
Let them go free
Don't keep them to yourself
Because they will never become a reality

Your dreams are your dreams
Make them come true
Share them with other people
So they can share theirs with you

Your dreams are your dreams
They can't be taken away
For once they become a reality
You live with them everyday

Make someone happy
And teach them how to dream
So they can teach someone else.
How to do the same thing.

It's nothing wrong with dreaming
It's a very positive thing,
For it's better to be dreaming
Than doing nothing

Your dreams are a part of your future
With a long and short range
Set them for one of the two
And you are guaranteed a successful ending

Never ever stop dreaming
And believing in yourself
For once you become successful
You can always help someone else.

WANDA R. HEGENS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I Can See

I've never seen the sun shine,
Or even the stars in the sky,
I've never seen the flowers that bloom
and even now I wonder why.

I've never seen an expressive smile
or even the rain falling down
I've never seen the tears I've shed or even the way I frown.

I've never seen a human face
or even a baby cry,
I've never seen the stranger
that shakes my hand each time they passes by.
And even though I'm blind
Threre are some things I can see,
I can see that God exist, and I can see that He loves me, and even though I've never seen
the wide spreaded sky, I
shall see God at His coming when he breaks through with a cry.

EMMA COOPER
ORLANDO, Fla.

Everyone Needs Someone

People need people and friends need friends.
And we all need love for a full life depends.
Not on vast riches or great acclaim
Not on success or on worldly fame
But just in knowing that someone cares, and hold us close in their thoughts and prayers.
For only the knowledge that we're understood makes everyday living feel wonderfully good.
And we rob ourselves of life's greatest need when we "Lock up our hearts" and fail to heed, the outstretched hand reaching to find a kindred spirit
Whose heart and mind are lonely and longing to somehow share with our loved ones and friends.
Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain, laughter and pleasure, teardrops and pain.
All days can't be bright, but it's certainly true,
There was never a cloud that the sun didn't shine through.
So just keep on smiling whatever betide you, secure in the knowledge
"God is always beside you."
And you'll find when you smile your day will be brighter, and all of your burdens will seem so much lighter.
For each time you smile you will find it is true, somebody somewhere will smile back at you.
And nothing on earth can make life more worthwhile
Than the sunshine and warmth of a beautiful smile.

ERMA J. HUTCHINSON
TULSA, OKLA.

All materials must be accompanied by a stamped, self - addressed envelope. Address all correspondence to The Editor, DAWN Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

Idris Alooma — Sultan of Bornu (1580-1617)

Mansa Kankan Mussa — King of Mali (1312-1337)

Askia Muhammed Toure — King of Songhay (1493-1529)

Menelek II — King of Kings of Abyssinia (1844-1913)

Affonso I — King of the Kongo (1506-1540)

Hannibal — Ruler of Carthage (247-183 B.C.)

Shaka — King of the Zulus (1818-1828)

Sunni Ali Ber — King of Songhay (1464-1492)

Akhenaton — Pharoah of Egypt (1375-1358 B.C.)

Taharqa — King of Nubia (710-664 B.C.)

Moshoeshoe — King of Basutoland (1815-1868)

Osei Tutu — King of Asante (1680-1717)

There's a Great Future in your past.

You have a past that's a prophesy of your future.

Great, highly-inspired Blacks have made their way through a turmoil of difficulties and injustices to become men of stature and respect.

Like these great Kings of Africa.

Granted, your future is in your hands, not theirs. But if ever you need inspiration for a successful future, look to your past. It is there that inspiration for success is firmly lodged.

Budweiser salutes Black History Month

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