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Black Lives Matter

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Rufus, Emmett J., “Black Lives Matter”

They label me a criminal, but legally take from the poor;
Killed a Black woman—all she did was answer the door;
Started with a boy in a hoodie, up to no good?
A mother and father robbed of a son—for what? Being a Black boy in the hood?

Hands up, don’t shoot! Rest in peace, Mike Brown.
Can’t breathe! Eric Garner, George Floyd on the ground.
I’m just praying for a change. We need it yesterday.
Brionna Taylor, Alton Sterling, you’ll never be forgotten, Freddie Gray.

What’s aggravating is how much it was understated,
How racism played a role in Sandra Bland’s death while incarcerated;
Laquan McDonald was running and had his hands up;
Tamir Rice was a boy; he could barely stand up.

This shit would probably make Martin modify and get violent;
For sure, Malcolm would have the fruit riding.
A moment? Fuck that. We need a full day of silence.
In my cell thinking about it, I spent a whole page crying.

I’m almost out of ink; all these photographs shattered.
Think it took long enough to realize Black lives matter?
How come we can’t just take knees about why we can’t take knees?
It’s clear we need a revolution—I mean a resolution.

Fire first. They’re gonna keep shooting
Peaceful protests, squash the looting;
Botham Jean; still finding Black men hanging.
We need change, but the same is all we’ve been given.

Black, white, who cares?
Progress. Stop Emmit Tilling.
Stephen Clark, Phillando Castille, Tanisha Anderson, rest in peace.
These are just a few who fell victim to the feast.

Genre: Poetry

Tags: BLM; Police violence; Sandra Bland; Mike Brown; Eric Garner; George Floyd; Botham Jean; Brionna Taylor; Alton Sterling; Freddie Gray; Stephen Clark; Phillando Castille; Tanisha Anderson; Tamir Rice; Laquan McDonald; Emmet Till; Malcolm X; MLK; Protest; Reform