



Pruned Roses

Poems 2004

Umoja Mentoring Program

New Jersey City University

Black, Administrators, Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Student Organization

Be Yaself

Be yaself
Don't copy my style
Don't do what I do
Don't try what I try
Be Yaself
Let me live my life
And u live urs
Stop tryna be me
And push through my doors
Be yaself
Stop following me around and
Takin notes on how I get down
Day by day I see how
U do
Stop tryna be me and b you

Maleika Bruce

Thank God

I thank God for sending you to me
For giving me a chance to experience and see
How it feels to be in love for the first time.
Just the thoughts you run my mine
When I hear your name I lose my train of thought
No love like this can ever be brought
Those materialistic things don't mean nothing to me
Cause I got you that's all I need
Everytime when my world get dark like the night
I just think of your face and I have light the shine so
Bright, your like the civil war cause your kiss is like winning a
victory, and when it happen I know it was meant to be, I
thank God cause it's something I have to do because without
him I wouldn't have found you.

Why

Why do people try to hurt me
Why do I feel the pain I feel
It be the people that I love
That make a would that does not heal

Why is it the people that I hate
that don't fase me or make me mad
But it be the ones I like
that make me feel so sad

Why am I so afraid
afraid of being hurt
again and again and again
I think its getting worst

I'm 14 year of age
and I still don't understand
the meaning of death
when I thought I can

These are the questions
That run through my mind as I cry
asking myself
Why! Why! Why!

Life

In life people go through struggles and shed lots of tears
But they still live for many years
Not knowing what's going to happen next in life
Until the day of their eternal night
Although some people sit back and let days pass them by
They don't realize that time is not shy
Because they never got the chance to do this, do that or even
go there
Just sitting and wondering how far death is near
But finally when they wake up and realize it will be to late
The man up above has called for a date
Cause you can't turn back the hands of time
Live your live fully until the end of the line

Chakira Cooper

My People

My people go through so many things
No mother, No father
No one to bother
Life in this day and age is getting so much harder
Although sometimes I wonder
When are the angels gonna call my number
Through winter or through summer
At nights when it thunders
This worries me
I'll never know
But one day, I will soon have to go
With my peoples

Chakira Cooper

“BLACK”

Im feelin all kinds of ways
This shit is fuckin with me day by day
its on my brain most of the time and I
always wonder about “mines” lately
Ive noticed Im not myself at all and I
wish these feelings for things weren't
so strong when im black oh people'll
know cause when I let go my emotions
flow. I feel at peace at times only when
Im sleep tho' this situation is effecting me
much so I hope the outcome if bad wont
show at times when Im black I write and
think about my future lifestyle and hope
that right now wont affect my well-earned
crown.

Maleika Bruce

Untitled

I stood outside and the sun was
warming my already hot caramel
skin the tan of the ghetto was a
mink coat and would be hard if
not impossible to peel off. The
mindset of nothing made me go
crazy when everything was given
to me.

The bussle of the street replayed
in my head as I laid in the silence
of my room the beat of my heart
became rhythm with the rumble
of the trucks outside my window.
But I thought of him all these times
and I guess I've figured it out he
makes everything work together.

Tria Zure

A Dream

Like an idea whose time has come
Give birth
To your dream, boldly
Release it,
As strong as cosmic energy
It cannot be turned back
Nurture it
With labor and foresight,
It grows steady and on course.
Protect it
From men whose lips
Speaks of limits and illusion
Listen to
The echoes of your heart's
Abundance and truth
Love it.
It is nature's most perfect creation.
The Dream is You

Bobbi Humphrey

The Growth

Live what you preach
Preach what you believe
Stand by your convictions
Confirm your convictions with God

Root all you do in the Will of God
He will provide balance in your life
Enjoy your days on earth
Plant seeds that will be fruitful tomorrow

Be the kind of person whose wedding and
Funeral you would want or be happy to attend.
Be kind to strangers, Treat people with loving
Honesty, love your enemies enough to pray
for them. The stink you will feel while doing so
cannot compare to the blessing you'll receive
latter.

Do not take your "Faith" lightly
Do not take the devil lightly
His job is to kill, steal and destroy you
And don't think he is going to walk up to
You and say "Boo". He is a master deceiver.
Live with God in your heart. Pray for his guidance
Read about Him in His word. He will provide you
With the peace and guidance you seek.

Have mercy on the lost, misguided and the foolish
Because Jesus had much mercy on you. When you
Didn't care for Him, He cared for you.
Find the truth in yourself. Then ask The Lord to
Change all that is self-destructive. He will use
them to teach and instruct you before He removes
them. Then you will use them to witness to others.
See even them He can turn into blessings.

malmonor

"After a While"

After a while you learn
the difference between holding a hand and sharing a life
and you learn that love doesn't mean security,
and loneliness is universal
and you learn that kisses aren't contracts
and presents aren't promises
and you begin to accept your defeats with your head up
and your eyes open
with the grace of a woman
not the grief of a child
you learn to build your hopes on today
for the future has a way of falling apart in mid-flight,
because tomorrow's ground can be too uncertain for plans,
yet each step taken is a new direction,
creating a path towards the promise of a brighter dawn.
And you learn that even sunshine burns
if you get too much,
so you plant your own garden
and nourish your own soul,
instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers
and you learn that love, true love
always has joys and sorrows seeming ever present,
yet is never quite the same
becoming more than love and less than love,
so difficult to define
and you learn through it all,

you can really endure that you are really strong,
and that you do have value
and you learn to grow,
with every goodbye
you learn.

author unknown

“Hear Me Out”

I am the essence of the Black Woman
Strong and Confident
Not only that I'm strong and confident
But the words that I speak are wise,
The thoughts that I think is live,
Don't be afraid because my education is Lethal,
it could be harmful to you in many ways,
But wait! I have a problem, I messed up my
life at one point and I'm starting to do
What's right,
But as you can see you'll need to focus
The Black beauty of me,
Cause I gurantee you, my name will be
Etched in stone for everyone to see.

For days I've been mistreated, misunderstood,
And troubled,
But no longer will that happen,
Cuz I'm her to show my education.

But why should you care you don't give
me props or applaud my efforts,
So when you see me walk by pssss,
Don't whisper because I already know
But do notice that my head is not bowed,
And your remarks do not phase me any longer.

Because with the struggles, I have
God is by my side and anything is possible!
So tell me, did you just hear me out or what?!?

Shakeemah Jacobs

Perhaps

Perhaps his time seemed all too brief.
Don't prolong it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with him,
God wanted him now! He set him free.
So bless his memories with all our hearts.
It's only for a little while that we must part
Don't hold your tears; don't block your fears,
Just understand that's how life is
Jaquel, may God look over you while you
Live your new life in a better place.
Cause every move I make, every word I say
Every time I look up in the sky,
I see your precious face.

Katrina Edward

*Dedicated to Jaquel Zaahir Stuckey
R.I.P. 10-28-00 - 9-14-03*

A Level of Knowing

For me, I believe everyday is a joke.
But then, I realize on how real it is, and then I choke
I want to be perfect in any given way.
These are thoughts that I think of, as I cry, tears of gray.
My strongest emotions, to me, can be the loneliness.
But then, it comes to meet with the seas of sadness and cry depths
of the ocean.
It's a potion of pain but it came to be happiness from the rain and
realized it was a shame
Because I wasn't the same thing but still I remain
I know now and I caught on and so, it's overcoming.
My intelligence is growing as I go on to “The Next Level of
Knowing”.

Jakiyyah Nicholson

I've Learned Womanhood from Little Girls

I've Learned Womanhood from little girls
captured in long church Sundays
in baby blue dresses sitting on mothers' laps
with sticky red lollipop residue on their lips.

They embodied hope for me somehow
teaching that knobby knees were prime products of
change
and pigtails was a hairstyle, down south cooking
and an essential part of a halloween costume.

Little toes couldn't reach where women's toes could
but
women's toes couldn't swing off church pews
and transcend to Lincoln Park-
they'd be
running through sprinklers
and see sawing
seeing their friends on monkey bars
and
monkeying around on the slides
and
sliding down slip and slides
and
it didn't even have to be summer-

just as long as they weren't 'it' in tag
i swear there was nothing
like being on home base.

And being a woman, meant looking at
young products of life just live-
they didn't worry about ashy elbows
or hair falling out
or mix-matched clothes
or big breast
or revlon
or men.

They lived in moments of bliss-
high heavened already
like worrying about the little things:
finding a penny (heads side up)
and waiting for mommy to get home
and seeing a smiley sticker on last night's homework.

And I can't tell you all I learned from little girls-
but womanhood depends on having
just one of them to get me through life.

Tamara Tertulien

Every second I think about life.
Never knowing if someone will
Stab me with a knife.
Never knowing if death is near.
This is what I mostly fear.

Signed: Unknown

The Umoja Mentoring Program was created by BAAFSSO to provide support for NJCU freshman, sophomores and transfer students of African descent.

In 1992 we added a new component to Umoja, the mentoring of the University Charter High School students. We are dedicated to providing mentorship through one-on-one mentorship, programs and activities.

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