

Thoughts in a Black Mind
by Imani Washington

I'm numb
I'm hurt
In shock and anxious
History repeats
"I can't breathe"
"I can't breathe"
"Please I can't breathe"
2014--Garner
Six years later...
And it's repeating--Floyd ?
Up North than down South
WHITE PRIVILEGE
Black men are missing
Souls are missing
The White voices I know are silent
But if it was Bey, A Boogie or Khalid who dropped
They would be very loud in the crowd
Families are broken
Traditions are different
But yet THEY are still silent
Remember school and hanging out on the weekends?
Aren't you still supposed to be family?
And yet you don't give two shits about my community
That shit scares me
I feel helpless in a world my ancestors built for free
I'm scared, this is all I can say
That can be any Black man I know today
And they would just watch him take his last breath
Would they watch me too?
Deaths are planned before their arrival
Before they could even read the Bible
John, Leviticus, Michael
Most victims go viral
Headline--New Titles
Or trends with new custom hashtags
#justiceforthem
#justiceforhim
#justiceforher
Constantly pondering how many more sisters and brothers will be taken from the
world?
I'm tired of being tired of being tired
My voice is muzzled, you're suddenly deaf

So, should I even continue to waste my breath?
Or should you speak for me?
Cause I know your skin color will be HEARD
I smell your hesitation
I hope you taste this truth
I can't teach you something you don't want to learn
Change will come, I say with hope
Because if it does
The remaining chains will be broken
Equality will be a thing instead of a joke
Human dignity for all races, not just for yours
Rights will actually be rights
Lives will be lived
And black boys will be ALIVE
My future son will even be ALIVE.
Mother's won't be scared for the children's lives and hoping their husbands come back
ALIVE
I end my prayer with fearful tears but also vindication for BLACK LIVES.