

Deryl Armstrong, C-10321
WordsUncaged Submission
(Poem)

“Black Man”

I am a Black Man
as far as the eyes can see
but deep underneath the skin
there is much more to me.
Don't be so hard on yourself, Black Man
never forget your goals and your master plan
I know times are hard and your feeling down
but remember what I said—stay down for your crown.
Don't give up hope and learn from mistakes
being a soldier is all it takes
you will make it through all oppression
even while suffering from depression.
When times get tough, don't forget to pray
to fight these demons from day to day
just build your strength and learn how to survive
maintain your will to stay alive.
Gather your people and teach what you've been taught
give freely the knowledge that they have sought
promote unity and thrive as a unit
why continue to suffer when we have all been through it.
Let's respect one another and support the youth
shield their eyes from propaganda and gossip and expose the truth
listen quicker than you speak
and practice what you preach.
Love and respect every woman and child
even when they are trippin' or lost and running wild
protect them from poison of the body and mind
teach them to leave those drugs behind.
Never forget your roots no matter how much you grow
be cautious of your actions because you reap what you sow
humble yourself and do what feels right
and never give in without a fight.
Look into my eyes
these brown eyes you see
you can see the pain and struggle
but, Black Man, I'm still free!