

## **Melanin Sufficient**

by *Deja Nycole*

Black brother, hold your head  
In my eyes, your worth is high  
To them, they wish dead  
Over you, I, cry

My Nubian king, can you hear me?  
We are no longer slaves, but we sure ain't free!

You and me  
They once feared— still  
To this day, they wish to tear  
To strangle, break, beat, and defeat  
This racial tension; it's too much to bear!

I love you  
Why can't they see?  
Your value, your strength  
You can succeed

This is not your fate  
It's more than hate  
Behind bars, shot in front of your car?  
It's not just my Black brothers  
—sisters too  
Raped, Abused, and Degraded  
To them, we are Melanin Sufficient

We fit their standard  
We fit their code  
Stereotyped and marked at birth  
What is this?

Hell on earth.

This here is NOT Martin's Dream  
But a continuation of the Klan's plan

It's not over  
But I think it can be stopped

We've got to stop killing our own  
Get out the streets and find that road  
That one less traveled  
Knowledge is power, so use it!  
Trust me  
It'll make all the difference

Don't forget or let it go over your head  
We've got to come together as one  
We Are Family! Thanks Sister Sledge!

You have so much to live for  
They try to take that away  
Keep your heads up and encourage each other  
Just remember, we're gonna see a brighter day

You are enough and your value is high  
He made each of us in His Image  
That is something you dare not deny  
So don't let them tell you you've got a limit  
To rise  
To climb  
To shine  
Or achieve  
Don't let that be something you believe

We come from great things, places, and people  
Pharaohs of Egypt, Kings, and Queens  
Inventors, Motivators, Activists, and Public Speakers!

We have come so far as a people  
Let's not go back  
We must strive to finish and continue to live  
If we don't act now they'll think they've won  
But little do they know  
The war has begun

I'll be damned if history repeats itself  
The blood, sweat, and tears of our people lay on these roads  
So how dare they be so bold?  
To cheat, beat, and try to repeat  
That which was done so many years ago

As a people, we want great wealth  
For our children, communities, and future  
Yet won't work for just any wage  
The wages of death and wages of sin  
Oh no! Don't let them in  
Have hope in the future and in tomorrow  
Value yourself and the rest shall follow

So many variations and full of wonder  
Why would you want to be another?  
From your nappy roots to your kinky ends  
You've got all kinds of friends  
Toffee, Brown, Caramel, and even Dark Chocolate  
What else could be more perfect?

The Man upstairs made no mistakes  
He made us like this because He's omniscient  
That's why we are Melanin Sufficient