

Gina Streaty is a freelance writer, editor, poet, and lecturer. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and a master's degree from Duke University. Her works have appeared in numerous periodicals and anthologies, including *BMA: The Sonia Sanchez Literary Review*, Stanford University's *Black Arts Quarterly*, *Temba Tupu! (Walking Naked) The Africana Woman's Poetic Self-Portrait*, and *Role Call: A Generational Anthology of Social and Political Black Literature and Art*. A separate collection of writings earned the 2001 National Zora Neale Hurston Literary Award.

Black Light: To MLK, Jr.

we once marched
for you.
in southern sunlight,
shards of men,
women, water-whipped,
blood-speckled,
bore fought-for freedom
and scars of kicks,
nightsticks
for you/a restless angel.

your wings beat
just beyond our reach
as our prayers scaled skies
and hooded phantoms
planted white crosses,
targeted rallies, bombed our babies
in a Birmingham basement.

we fed your dream
as ours wriggled for freedom,
marked our journey
with sweat and tears,
anointed our bones with freedom songs,
said we shall not be moved,
kept our eyes on the prize.
did we overcome?

we once marched for you.
our footsteps echoed
your name.
your name

(i may not get there with you . . .)
still shivers on the mountaintop
inside an ebon fire.