

By: Teddy Berry

### Introduction

Hello my name is Teddy Berry and today I will be presenting an original piece called We Shall Overcome: a tribute to Martin Luther King jr. and Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. The reason these two great people inspired me to write this poem is because they were both great pride lifters for Africans & African-American people in the 20th century.

### We Shall Overcome

- A tribute to MLK Jr. and Haile Selassie

Yesterday we were *kings*

Today we are slaves of babylon

We shall overcome

Yesterday we were Kings, Queens, & princes. Merchants, Generals, & Wisemen

Today a people building up to *greatness*

We shall overcome

We shall overcome because we are Already, and always have been great

But it is up to you to take the greatness of the african people and use it to fight against the oppressor that be

So fight against the hate, the racism, the bigotry, and the oppression that babylon brings down on you

Don't stop fighting you sons and daughters of great countries and nations, don't stop fighting until you get what you deserve and what you desire

For we will know it someday and let that day come **soon** for we **can not stand** not having our

## **FREEDOM**

I know some of you in the crowd do not know what I mean when I say Babylon so now I am going to tell you. When I say Babylon what I really mean is the system of the west that has made black and brown people look, feel, or seem insignificant compared to the white man when really they are equal. After all we are all one race aren't we? In the bible the ancient Babylonian people, who lived in Ancient Mesopotamia traveled to Jerusalem and enslaved the Jewish people just because they believed in a different god than them. So as I said before and will say 1,000 times over we must fight against Babylon. And we must overcome. Thank you.