

The Cradle of Man and Blues for Amiri

by

Genny Lim

Genny Lim is a native San Francisco poet, playwright and performer. Her publications include the American Book Award winning, *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese on Angel Island*, the play, *Paper Angels* and several collections of poetry, *Paper Gods and Rebels*, *Child of War and Winter Place*. She has performed internationally in Venezuela, Naples, Sarajevo, throughout the U.S. and collaborated with musical greats, Max Roach, Herbie Lewis, Eddie Marshall and Jon Jang.

The Cradle of Man

In Remembrance of the Black lives lost to racial violence

Words fall
in slack mouthed silence
Mothers' eyes trained towards a
cliff none can see
where the sun sets on
youthful limbs tethered to air
unstrung from life, unstrung from despair
Their Black bodies are the maps and
bones of human genesis
birthed in Africa and
disclaimed in America

Blues for Amiri

Somebody blew up America
And you knew who, Amiri
Somebody blew up the Blues in
9-11 time, in lock-step tempo
with dancing Israelis and royal Saudis
Sh-h-h! There's a devil in the house!
You warned us of the clandestine
Bush-raelis and Saudis
of the Larry Silversteins
copping 4.6 billion for a building
he 'pulled' himself
You tipped us to the WTC and paper
media not worth the air it travels on
Somebody blew himself up in order
to blame somebody else
Yeah, sounds lame and insane?
But the truth be stranger than lies
Somebody blew up the Cradle of Civilization
Somebody messed up Mesopotamia
and all her ancient treasures
on a handshake!
With all that oil bleeding from her womb
With all the midwives of profit and doom
lusting for the payout of the century!
Oh, somebody pulled the wool over our eyes
and laughed all the way to the World Bank,
Halliburton and Dick Cheney's house!
Somebody staged the planets and the planes
Somebody staged the execution of Saddam
Somebody staged the assassination of Bin Laden
Somebody staged the Boston massacre bombers
Somebody detonated the bombs at the Twin Towers
for a photo-op and reality T-V
Somebody drank the kool-aid
Somebody stole our votes in Florida and
let the wolves run out of the pack-
Wolfowitz, Rumsfeld and Bremer

Somebody took the terrorists out of the country
and left the country in terror
Somebody massacred women and babies and
called it collateral damage
Somebody went to the WTO
to fix all the rules
and the G-4 S to
demand protection
Somebody blew up America
just to up the ante
Somebody blew up America
for the 1% and stole all the wealth
through inside trading and offshore thefts
Somebody left you and me holding the bag
and looking into the empty barrels of guns
Somebody gave us Facebook, Yahoo and Google
so we could be in touch with the NSA at all times
Somebody sent the drones to twerk us
with Miley Cyrus and Justin Bieber!
Somebody blew up America
and replaced it with Homeland Security
Somebody blew up the Blues in
9-11 time, in lock-step tempo
with dancing Israelis and royal Saudis
Somebody pulled the plug on humanity
pulled the caper of the century
pulled the planned demolitions and
left us poor, hungry and homeless
left us asking what Marvin asked,
“What’s going on? What’s going on?”
Instigator of Truth
Laureate of the underdog
the dispossessed and the maligned
Harbinger of things to come
for a high-jacked nation
Poet prophet among
the Assata Shakurs
the Angola Three
the Leonard Peltiers

the Mumia-abu Jamals
the Chelsea Mannings
the Edward Snowdens
the Most Wanted revolutionaries
and freedom fighters
the blues people
that Idle No More!
Sing out! Shout out from all
the ten directions of the Bardo
Amiri, America, blow
Blow Baraka, blow, blow
Blow the tomb-raiders to
their hell-realms of hypocrisy
Blow the genetically modified
motherfuckers masks off
to face their own
dark destiny and karma
Blow, blow up denial!
Blow up fear!
Blow their minds!
Blast the notes!
Blow the sounds and chords!
Bellow the words!
Bring it on loud n' clear!
In the evil flames of
Desert Storm
Shock and Awe
Operation Enduring Freedom
New Dawn
all names of the Devil
Blow 'em up! Blow 'em all up!
Somebody blew up America
and the fire down below is you!