



HARLEM CHILDREN SOCIETY

'The purpose of souls is to Assist each other.'

Dr. Sat Bhattacharya

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New York Academy of Sciences
The Archie Lacey Lecture & Award
New York City

I am Black

Black,
because I have a future and work hard at it

Black,
because I am a Christian,
a Jew
a Muslim
because I am a Hindu too

Black
because I am pink,
I am purple
I am blue
And white too

Black
because I am the Gandhi, King and the Teresa
because I am the Krishna, Jesus, Mohammed, and
Buddha too

Black,
because I am that Ode to the Spring Song
Black,
because I am that full moon that lit your winter
sky
Black,

because I am that bloom that set the sweet valleys
in flowery blaze

I am Black.

I am Black,
because I am of all Colors, Class and Creed
and ne'er I live in any encysted embrace
because
I am the all encompassing *Shunya*
because,
I am that path that keeps every step alive

Black
because,
I have my dreams
Dreams for myself
Dreams for my brothers and sisters
Dreams not just for my own community
but beyond . . .

I am Black

I am Black
because
I died
I died in the holocausts
in the Katrinas
in the Darfours
as a Shudra
as a Slave - traded
on the free market
and on the highways of humanity

too

I am Black
Because
I will live
Live as long as there are the Katrinas
the holocausts
the Darfours
and the Shudras

.... I will live

I will live, because I am the future

I am Black

I am Black

because I am that heart that never skips a beat
because I am that mind that never stops dreaming
because I am that will that never falters.

I am Black,

because I have a dream
because I will live
and will continue doing so
because I have a future
and will continue living for it
because I am that compassion
that holds love in embrace

I am Black

I am Black

and proud of it

