

A Lament for When There Are No More Words: Amir Locke #SayHisName

Leader: There are no more words

Assembly: and so much to say

Leader: which is to say

will this time become reckoning with what some of us refuse to see

Assembly: and some of us live every moment

Leader: which is to say

will this moment open our hearts to how old is this story of resilience

Assembly: and this myth of supremacy

Leader: which is to say

will this name become the bones in our mouths

cries called forth from a country that needs to be reminded

Assembly: black lives matter

Leader: which is to say

will this death awaken us to our kin who must ask

Assembly: what will it take to stay alive today:

Leader: “I need to drive my two-year-old to daycare tomorrow morning.

To ensure we arrive alive, we won’t take public transit.”

Assembly: Oscar Grant, say his name.

Leader: “I removed all air fresheners from the vehicle

and double checked my registration”

Assembly: Daunte Wright, say his name.

Leader: “and ensured my license plates were visible.”

Assembly: Lt. Caron Nazario, say his name.

Leader: “I will be careful to follow all traffic rules”

Assembly: Philando Castille, say his name.

Leader: “signal every turn”

Assembly: Sandra Bland, say her name.

Leader: “keep the radio volume low”

Assembly: Jordan Davis, say his name.

Leader: “and won’t stop at a fast food chain for a meal.”

Assembly: Rayshard Brooks, say his name.

Leader: "I'm too afraid to pray"
Assembly: Rev. Clementa C. Pickney, say his name.

Leader: "so I just hope the car won't break down"
Assembly: Corey Jones, say his name.

Leader: "or that we won't have an accident and need help."
Assembly: Renisha McBride, say her name.

Leader: "When my wife picks up our child at the end of the day,
I'll reminder her not to let him dance"
Assembly: Elijah McClain, say his name.

Leader: "or stop and play in a park"
Assembly: Tamir Rice, say his name.

Leader: "or patronize the local convenience store for snacks"
Assembly: Trayvon Martin, say his name.

Leader: "or walk around the neighborhood"
Assembly: Mike Brown, say his name.

Leader: " they are home, we won't stand in our backyard"
Assembly: Stephon Clark, say his name.

Leader: "or eat ice cream on the couch"
Assembly: Botham Jean, say his name.

Leader: "or play any video games."
Assembly: Atatiana Jefferson, say her name.

Leader: "After we tuck him into bed,
neither of us will leave the house to go to Walmart"
Assembly: John Crawford, say his name.

Leader: "or on a jog."
Assembly: Ahmaud Arbery, say his name.

Leader: "We'll just sit and try not to breathe"
Assembly: George Floyd, say his name.
Byron Williams, say his name.
Eric Garner, say his name.

Leader: "and not to sleep."
Assembly: **Breonna Taylor, say her name.**
Amir Locke, say his name.

Leader: "These are things white people simply do not have to think about."
Assembly: **What will it take to stay alive today?**

Leader: which is to say
there is no justice for the dead
no trial can restore a life
Assembly: **no verdict can repair**
what has been stolen

Leader: which is to say
the names
Assembly: **which is to say**
love

Leader: which is to say
abolition
Assembly: **which is to say**
white supremacy is a lie

Leader: which is to say
#BlackLivesMatter
Assembly: **which is to say**
image of God

Leader: which is to say
these names
until we dream a world to life
where there is no more need
to say the names
Assembly: **because we will be here**
breathing together
in peace.

- By Sharon R. Fennema and David Gray
(text in quotation marks is from a Facebook post by David Gray)