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National Youth Poet Laureate
Democratic National Convention
Wednesday, August 21, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

We gather at this hallowed place
Because we believe in the American dream.
We face a race that tests if this country
We cherish shall perish from the earth,
And if our earth shall perish from this country.

It falls to us to make sure that we do not fall,
For a people that cannot stand together cannot stand at all.
We are one family,
Regardless of religion, class, or color;
For what defines a patriot
Isn't just our love of liberty,
But our love for one another—
Loud in our country's call.
Because while we all love freedom,
It's love that frees us all.

Empathy emancipates,
Making us greater than hate or vanity.

That is the American promise, powerful and pure:
Divided, we cannot endure,
But united, we can endeavor to humanize our democracy,
And endear democracy to humanity.

Cohering is the hardest task history ever wrote.
Yet tomorrow isn't written by the odds of hardship,
But by the audacity of our hope; by the vitality of our vote.

Only now, approaching this rare air,
Are we aware that perhaps the American dream
Isn't a dream at all, but, instead, a dare: To dream together.

Like a million roots tethered,
Branching up humbly,
Making one tree,
This is our country:
From many, one;
From battles won,
Our freedom's rung;
Our kingdom come
Has just begun.

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We redeem this sacred scene, ready for our journey from it.
Together, we must birth this early republic
And achieve an unearthly summit.
Let us not just believe in the American Dream.
Let us be worthy of it.

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