

Dee Allen.

## OVERCOME

Try as devils might  
To change the look of  
The big picture  
Passing itself off as a democracy,

## THEY CAN'T REMOVE US ALL.

For the longest time,  
They have used

Abandonment  
Brutality  
Criminalisation  
Displacement  
Enslavement  
Force-fed false history  
Gentrification  
Harassment  
Intoxication  
Jokes told—spite in disguise  
Ku Klux flaming cross night-rides  
Lust towards our grrrls & women  
Mass murder  
Negation of our views  
Or  
Police intimidation  
Queens' African beauty devalued  
Religion—Christianity passed down by Pilgrims  
Sterilisation

Terrorism  
Unity broken  
Vicious discrimination  
White imperialism  
X out credit for our contributions  
Youth killed before age 25  
Z—last letter—last considered, 1st targeted

All the tricks implemented  
    On us & yet

Our people are still mating.  
    Our women are still breeding.  
        Our people are still here.  
            Our culture is still here.

WE HAVE OVERCOME

Endeavours by devils  
    To whittle our number  
        To nothing—

WE HAVE OVERCOME.

It's been a long, arduous walk  
    On the road to progress.

Reacting to muscle memory, repeatedly  
    Hurtling over  
        Obstacles we didn't design  
            Over time—

We look forward

To thriving in  
The next 400 years  
& what they may bring.

We look forward  
To days of joy, seeking pleasure we deserve

Not to forget about oppression,  
But to surmount oppression  
Before it regains ground  
To conquer spirit

By having  
The best times of our lives.

Be loud,  
Be lively,  
Be talented  
Because

THEY CAN'T SILENCE US ALL.

WE HAVE OVERCOME

& whenever possible,  
We'll do it again.

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W: Martin Luther King Birthday 2023

[ For Rawle James, Lantern Carrier, S'phongo, Zomkhonto, Elemen2al,  
Midnight, Rosegold, Stacy Ardis Dyson and Zita Holbourne. ]