

PAUL ROBESON - SPEAK OF ME AS I AM

BY TATIANA LYULKIN

SAY MY NAME,
LET IT ROLL OFF YOUR TONGUE
LIKE A GIANT BURST
OF THUNDER AND LIGHTNING
IN THE SUMMER SKY.
I'M THE SON OF A SLAVE,
A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD,
I'M A SINGER,
AN ACTOR,
AN ATHLETE,
AN ACTIVIST,
A FATHER,
A GRANDFATHER.
AND I'M PROUD OF BEING BLACK.
I'VE GOT AFRICA IN MY VEINS
AND HARLEM IN MY SOUL,
I'VE PLAYED EMPERORS AND KINGS,
I'VE BEEN VILIFIED BY MY FOES
AND SHUNNED BY MY FRIENDS
BUT HERE I AM,
STANDING TALL
LIKE A GIANT OAK TREE
IN THE FOREST.

I'M A BEACON OF HOPE
FOR MY CHILDREN AND MY FRIENDS,
I'M A MAN
WHO WASN'T AFRAID
TO CHOOSE SIDES,
I USED MY VOICE
TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE DARKNESS,
I FOUGHT FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
EVEN THOUGH THE COST WAS HIGH.

SAY MY NAME,
I'M THE SON OF A SLAVE.
A TROUBLEMAKER.
A FREEDOM FIGHTER.
SPEAK OF ME AS I AM.