

**Being Black**  
*A Juneteenth Reflection*

By Jayla Thomas, Y.P.D. President

They say history never repeats itself but that's a statement I'd like to argue  
In 1619 our ancestors were brought over to stolen land and forced to work for  
the white man.

And now when non people of color see you, all they want to do is harm you.  
In 1865, everyone thought that racism would end with just one ban.

Being Black. A blessing and a curse.

99 years of Jim Crow,  
86 years of lynching,  
14 years of Civil Rights fighting,  
and now police brutality...

You can get shot without justice just for carrying a purse.  
When will people wake up and realize that we're not just our nationality.

Juneteenth was the start of our freedom.  
But they added on discrimination by looking at our color.  
They only count on blacks when they need some.  
Some of our what? Culture.  
If we left, they'd have nothing of their own.  
Their lives would just be duller.

They say MAGA and Trump 2020 without even really knowing where THEY came from.  
Now I don't want to put a damper on this holiday and only talk about the negatives.  
We've been fighting and creating since the 1600s and have made it to the top.  
Made it so far where we even have our own black representatives.  
Black power should never stop or flop.  
Being Black. A blessing and a curse.