

(LITTLE) BOBBY JAMES HUTTON

By Joy Holland, Sd.A

Created for Black Panther Party Alumni Committee, West Oakland Library, April 19, 2003

We gather here today in this land  
where all Human Rights for all  
are non-existing evil intentions,  
the mirror of society,  
in the continuous highway of Life  
reflecting the same hopes and frustrations  
that we have expected for too many generations.  
Finding the cup half-filled with empty promises,  
we forget our past is re-lived when  
it is not remembered.

Planning the journey from the present back to the past,  
we wonder why we have arrived at the same gate,  
halfway through the same journey,  
walking with good intentions,  
weighing nightmares against dreams,  
with aspirations denied,  
progressions detoured,  
tasting the knowledge of common sense  
and searching for the thread of existence.  
In the process of translation  
our history continues to be  
hidden in the velvet folds of oppression.  
We, the Chosen People,  
can *not* do any less than  
fulfill the Ancestor's prophecy  
of our greatness

Stumbling in the direction of Life,  
first determining to live through the Middle Passage  
then to survive the de-humanizing of chattel slavery  
auctions, bullwhips, picnics and war.

Marching on through boycotts,  
demonstrations, riots and political promises.

Stepping around integration, redlining,  
community meetings about unemployment,  
health issues and gentrification

Our heroes rise from the neighborhoods  
Young, out spoken, and conscience  
with the balance between frustration and regret,  
necessity developing the keen minds of genius  
but political promises continue to be contradictions

Our youth offered ROTC  
as an alternative to court justice  
while the State prison becomes an industry.  
Driving while Black makes computers a weapon.  
Crowded classrooms are propped-up with failure.  
Communities sleep with toxic contamination  
and all the stereotypes that justifies  
selected persecution.

Stepping with caution  
Young teens understand their  
identities are simply computer printouts  
declared by Rules of Society  
denying self-definition.

And the slogan,  
No Child Left Behind has new meaning  
for our youth without adult credentials

Halfway in the journey of yet another circle of Life,  
necessity developed the keen minds of genius  
in the vision of the Black Panther Party  
knowing the difference between freedom  
and being free.

The need for change was in the visions  
and strategies of what has to be.

The 10 point programs of  
Marcus Garvey's Negro Improvement Program  
of Steve Biko's South African Students Organization  
of Dr. Huey P. Newton's Black Panther Party  
are all through our story.

The Black Panther Party  
began and is remembered  
as a grass-roots organization  
serving and educating the people  
witnessed and documented  
circumstances and situations  
born from observation and determination

The programs it started continue under other names  
Shoes, food, clothing, and a health clinic  
all free

So the student could walk firmly into achievement  
with the subsistence to help them learn.

The Youth Institute teaching to the un-taught the  
vital necessities of education  
to strengthen the community.

And, Little Bobby Hutton, Treasurer,  
young, outspoken and conscience  
using the sling-shot against Golitah,  
earned his respect and immortality.  
His memory lasts longer than his life  
an example of personal truth  
with value and purpose

Just as Aesop educated with his Fables  
exposing confidential lies and public secrets,  
Mumia's notes predict the agenda on the  
Program for the New American Century  
and Gil Scott Heron is still telling you it won't be televised!

In the Spirit of our youth  
stepping to the rhythm of pride  
Before the journey is completed for our future  
Conscienceness, Pride, Unity  
*and our Youth*  
waits at the crossroads  
knowing Power Is In Unity!

POWER TO THE PEOPLE!