

I Speak to Her in Love and Power

BY PAM WARD

AT SIXTY SIX I'VE LIVED, LEARNED AND EVEN BEEN BURNED
I FEEL SHE NEEDS ME TO SPEAK TO HER NOW MY VULNERABLE 14 YEAR OLD SELF
CRY, SCREAM, SHOUT AT THE INJUSTICE AND PAIN INFLICTED ON OUR BODY AND
OUR PEOPLE!

THERE IS NO SHAME IN RIGHTEOUS ANGER
WE ARE STILL HERE DESPITE THE ABUSE AND POST TRAUMATIC SLAVE SYNDROME
WE CRIED UNDER THE MATERNAL LASH
JUST AS OUR SLAVE ANCESTORS ENDURED THE WHIP AND WE CONTINUE TO CARRY
THE SCARS

FELT CRUSHED BY THE TEACHER WHO SAID GO BACK TO AFRICA IF YOU DON'T LIKE
IT HERE

CRINGED AT THE SIGHT OF CLASSMATES AND LATER COMRADES BEATEN BY THE
POLICE

SYSTEMIC RACISM AND WHITE PRIVILEGE STILL THE LANGUAGE OF YESTERDAY
AND TODAY

JUST DON'T GIVE UP LITTLE BLACK GIRL WHO STILL LIVES INSIDE OF ME
DESPITE THE SYSTEM, WE LEARNED LOVE IN COLLECTIVE LIVING, PRACTICED
JUSTICE FOR ALL, AND SELF-ACCEPTANCE FROM OUR BLACK PANTHER COMRADES
GIVEN A TEN POINT PLATFORM TO SUPPORT A REMARKABLE 7 YEARS OF WORK IN
THE HEART OF THE STRUGGLE

GIVEN THE HEART TO PURSUE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION FOLLOWING THE
EXAMPLE OF DR. HUEY P. NEWTON- A MERE MORTAL ORGANIZING GENIUS
THIS SET AN EXAMPLE FOR MY FAMILY TO HAVE A LOVE OF KNOWLEDGE AND
LEARNING

I'M AMAZED BY THE GRACE AND BLESSING TO HAVE THE LOVE OF CHILDREN,
GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT

GRANDCHILDREN IN THIS LIFETIME-A MITVAH

NOW I CAN TELL YOU HALLELUJAH, WE'RE MAKING IT !

WE ARE BLESSED WITH A CHURCH HOME- GLIDE

FOUNDED BY THE SPIRITUAL REVOLUTIONARIES CECIL WILLIAMS AND JANICE
MIRIKITANI

I STILL SERVE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH GLIDE

MAKING A SUPREME DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS

WITH FAITH IN GOD AND BEING WILLING TO TELL TRUTH TO POWER

I WENT FROM A YOUNG PANTHER TO A QUEEN WHO KNOWS HER WORTH IN THIS
WORLD

STILL FACING RACISM, MYSOGENY AND SEXISM

WE MIGHT BEND SLIGHTLY AND NEED MOMENTS OF RESPITE FROM THE

DEPRESSION THAT MUST BE

MANAGED AND CAN'T BE CURED

GOD SAW FIT TO PROVIDE A LIFE PARTNER/ A HUSBAND FOR THE DAYS THAT

REMAIN, WHO TAKES CARE OF ME,

LOVES ME DEEPLY, IS PROUD OF ME, SUPPORTS AND EVEN JOINS ME IN MY WORK
IN THE COMMUNITY

I ENGAGE WITH HIM TO CREATE AND RE-CREATE THIS MARRIAGE EVERY DAY