

Dear Lady in Blue,

When I meandered into the African American museum and saw you commanding the wall space that you occupied, I could feel your strength, regality, courage, and beauty summoning me to you. As I stood in awe in front of you mesmerized by your essence, I sensed your quiet power and calming spirit as you embodied the history of our people scattered throughout the diaspora and bridged the divide of the Atlantic Ocean and 400 years of degradation that failed to topple the enduring spirituality, intelligence, creativity, and will to not only survive but thrive despite any obstacles be they the evils of enslavement, systemic racism, patriarchy, genocide, self-loathing, police brutality or the status quo.

As I examine your profile, I envision you willing us to embrace the future and anticipate new accomplishments and success no matter how many times the principalities of darkness, disease, despair, and death try to dampen our light. The lone visible dangling gold earring in your pierced ear symbolizes the sacredness and the circle of life and the two paths we can take in our lives no matter the situation: better or bitter, life or death, joy or pain, help or hinder, forward movement or stagnation. In the center of these two choices is the holy place, the dividing line, the cross of the Creator of the universe, the root of our strength, the One we are all from. The One who will never forsake us, the One who wants us to know that no matter our hue or how we self-identify, we are all part of humanity and should be treated with dignity and respect for from dust we all came and from dust we shall all return.

The beautiful blue and white headdress upon your head reminds me of the shape of Africa, which although it has had its resources plundered and its people kidnapped, it retains its designation as the beginning of civilization and possesses some of the wonders of the world. The two sections that both contain white lines and dots serve as a dual purpose. The markings on the front inside of the white lines represent those throughout time and space and even into the future who have achieved greatness, from building pyramids and the learning capital of the world or leading slave revolts, boycotts, countries, or Black Lives Matter marches to creating the traffic light, poetry in motion or sermons and songs that inspire Movements. The second half of your headdress symbolizes the names of the unknown everyday heroes and sheroes of the past and the future who sacrificed their lives or livelihoods by standing up in their own ways to injustice, hatred, bigotry, misogyny, homophobia, sexism, racism, classism and unequal access to healthcare, education, due process, safe neighborhoods, healthy food and the future evils of the world.

Lady in Blue, may you continue to encourage future generations to boldly go wherever their hearts desire, to seek out unimaginable heights, and to always keep the Source of our Strength who is known by many names in our hearts so that before we return to dust, we will embody your spirit and comfort those in the valley and encourage those on the mountaintop by proclaiming as you said to me that day when I first saw you and days thereafter as you now reside in my home: "You got this!" "You are more than a survivor; you are a conqueror!" "The best is yet to come!" "To whom much is given, much is required." "Although you may not feel like it right now, you are royalty!" "Eyes have not seen nor ears heard...the things which God has prepared for those who love Her!"