

## Between This Air (Transcript)

[00:51]

Julian: If I say black bodies and breathing, what comes to mind?

Ellah: That idea of just how important the black body is because this is what we have. You know, people see us and they see a history, they feel they know something or understand something that is not about ourselves as individuals but about what has been done to us.

[2:55]

Julian: leave and let me breath as though I work this land  
as though the earth is one with my beating heart  
we the generation digging deep for a breath  
leave and let me breath  
walk as though every step is alive  
as though I wore this flaming heart filled with a soulful sonnet  
and a blues hot tongue to speak with  
leave and let me breath as though I was born  
I can speak let my lungs testify to persuade my soul matters  
let me stay visible to live as though a life is a life is a life  
how many lives a Nigger got to give before you call him a man?  
how many depths do you need to dig to know how deep his soul is?  
The revelation is in your chest.

[3:35]

Ellah: Finding those spaces that allow you to breathe deeply. And to be conscious of that growth and of how life-giving it is.

[4:05]

Ellah: \*Hold on things or the people that allow you that space to breath  
and as I get old you need to feel safe in order to properly exhale.

[04:26]

Jason: I've always had trouble with the term black bodies. But, I guess, I'm meant to have that problem. As in, you know, we're not just bodies, we're not just this thing that we see. You know, spoke in an objectifying way. So, you know, everytime I hear it I'm slightly challenged or confronted by it. But, again, on reflection I think I need to be challenged by it because in a sense I'm almost seeing it from a perspective of the other. Because we are objectified by others, so maybe where it kind of plays on that term we're co-opting, you know, we're kind of disempowering their kind of perspective of us.

[06:12]

Ellah: There is something there where he's saying that, you know, this suppression has been about not allowing us to breathe, not allowing us to be. And so a violence as you say, an erasure, that goes beyond the killing of that particular body, a separation of families. Say 'Yes, I am still breathing, I am still here.'

[6:42]

Julian  
leave and let me breath as though I work this land  
as though the earth is one with my beating heart  
we the generation digging deep for a breath  
leave and let me breath  
walk as though every step is alive  
as though I wore this flaming heart filled with a soulful sonnet  
and a blues hot tongue to speak with  
leave and let me breath as though I was born  
I can speak let my lungs testify to the way my soul mutters  
let me stay visible to live as though a life is a life is a life  
how many lives a Nigger got to give before you call him a man?  
how many depths do you need to dig to know how deep his soul is?  
how many?  
The revelation is in your chest  
Call me a flowering mouth spreading seeds  
a party of light  
in the dark a cradle cry  
we are, we are, we are quintessential to your future  
I say leave and let me play the lucky hand  
As I walk this land not as a Nigger but as a man  
not as a refugee but as one in one earth  
I say leave and let me breath  
leave and let me breath  
I say leave and let me  
I say leave and let me  
I say leave and let me breath

[8:38]

Jason: Time frames of ourselves, where we can see the future, we're not afraid of it.  
Because we're already there.

[10:13]

Julian: We are what's left  
(one life)  
what's left  
(one life)  
what's left

(one life)  
what's left of us  
a remembrance of the past  
(one life)  
this air is a remembrance of the past  
because each time is the first  
time the air has left  
for good

[11:07]

Ellah:

There is something there where he's saying that, you know, this oppression has been about not allowing us to breathe, not allowing us to be.