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## The Dame of Liberty

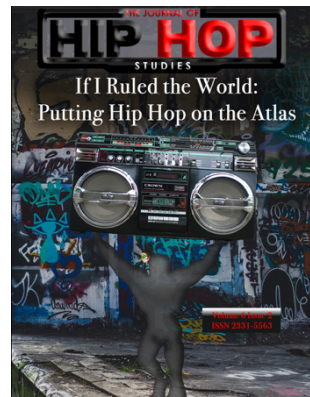
Ikeogu Oke

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## The Tupac Shakur Memorial Poems/Songs

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*Ikeogu Oke*

### A Sequence

#### No. 8: The Dame of Liberty

(For Rap Music, to the Memory of Tupac Shakur)

Our towers scrape the sky;  
Their roofs ascend on high;  
And so high should our rating be,  
As the people of liberty.

**Chorus:** And we've raised before the sea  
The Dame of Liberty:  
A gorgeous gift that seems to be  
A taunt for folks like me.

*To be rapped or sung,  
the other stanzas rapped*

But she's a torchbearer for real,  
Shining her light for us to see  
How we all need to heal  
From the wounds of slavery.

*Repeat chorus.*

Yes, I lived in her land of the free,  
And wondered, "What's in it for me?"  
I thought of her freedom's bounty,  
And wondered when my share would be.

*Repeat chorus.*

And, yes, our hope to be free remains  
Distant for their unseen chains.

“Give me liberty, or give me death!”  
I cried out, and they gave me death.

*Repeat chorus.*

And that’s how our nation stumbles,  
Its deeds against its beliefs;  
Yes, that’s how she stumbles,  
Among our many griefs.

*Repeat chorus.*

Our lives remain dark or in the shadow;  
Our prospects are still dim or shallow;  
In this land of life we can hardly breathe;  
To the cradle of our freedom our nation brought a wreath.

*Repeat chorus.*

Great Dame of Liberty,  
Towering before the sea,  
When will your torch we all see  
Shine for folks like me?

*Repeat chorus.*

February 27, 2018

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<sup>1</sup> “Give me liberty, or give me death!” is a quotation from a speech delivered by Patrick Henry, an American attorney, orator and planter, to the Second Virginia Convention on March 23, 1775, at St. John’s Church in Richmond, Virginia.