

To Be Young, Gifted, and Black

I recently watched a documentary on the life of 60s jazz and R&B singer, Nina Simone. As a Black woman of success in America, Simone used her platform not only to share beautiful music with the world, but to bring attention to the injustice and racism inflicted on African American people during the Civil Rights Movement. In the heat of Civil injustice on Black Americans and the rise in leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, Simone became a voice for the Black community, not only taking a stand for black lives through her song, “Mississippi Goddamn”, but also inspiring the pride and privilege that it is to be Black in a world that would say the opposite.

*How to be young, gifted and black
Oh, how I've longed to know the truth
There are times when I look back
And I am haunted by my youth
Oh, but my joy of today
Is that we can all be proud to say
To be young gifted and black
Is where it's at*

Nina Simone's “To Be Young, Gifted, and Black”, relays the injustice and hardship in our Black history time and time again, but reminds us that being Black is something to be proud of, not ashamed. Although this world wraps chains of systemic racism around us as Black Americans, we can take pride in the fact that being young, gifted, and Black is where it's at.

