

Emily Cruz
The Questions

(1st Place, The Molloy Common Reading Program
Inspired Works Contest)

Tell me I am no more than the mere color of my skin?
Do we not all have the same heartbeat within?
Are we not all sons and daughters from our mother's womb?
Will we not all one day return to our final resting place, the tomb?
Have you ever cried?
So have I
Have you ever felt lonely?
So have I
Have you ever loved deeply?
So have I
Then explain to me, why are we different?
I have hopes and fears just like you
Yet I am treated
As though I am less than human
As though I don't have a mind that wants to be freed from hatred
As though I don't have a heart that is only seeking love and comfort
Do you not understand that our colors may be different but our bodies
are the same?
Do you not know that I am you and you are me?
We are one
Can you not see that our colors are different but our spirits are the
same,
Both searching for some peace in this world?
I am more than this outer shell in which I live
I am more than the shackles that have entangled me
I am more than the words of contempt that have been whispered
in my ear
And I am infinitely more than the bondage that has consumed my life
So then, who am I?

See, I am a blazing fire that will not be extinguished
I am a mighty tower that cannot be shaken
I am a vibrant spark that has not been dulled
by the obstacles I have faced
And I am a tree that has remained rooted after the storms of life

So tell me once again, Am I simply the color of my skin?
Do I not deserve to freely live?