

NO EASY ROAD
By Willie Phillips

Life for me ain't been no easy road.

I was 5 when I first saw my Momma cry.
She told me about the murder of Emmitt Till;
then said, "Be careful son,
that's the way a lotta black boys die."

When I was 8, a so-called white man in his 50's,
Slapped me to the ground and called me a nigger.
Something started burning insidea' me.
I sure wanted to pull a trigger.

I always saw stuff my peers just didn't see.
I always thought:
"This ain't the way life is 'sposetobe!"

I never saw my Grand Daddy Really Happy...
When I was 9, I saw a white men beat, burn, and hang
my great uncle's body from a tree.
Billie Holiday calls it Strange Fruit,
But it ain't Strange to me...
When I was 17, they did something similar to my classmate.
By that time, I was angry, confused and Plum Fulla' Hate!
Just like my Grand Daddy, it makes me feel Really Crappy...

I felt like I'd seen it all, there was no one I could call.
No one else would dare say a word.
My voice was all I heard...in that herd.
In a sea of silence, I was drowning.

Every whicha' way I turned,
my people were getting' hosed, beat, dog bit, jailed, bombed,
lynched or burned.
Inside I'd churn...and scream!

"This ain't the way life is 'sposetobe!"

I thought,
there has to be an easier way out...
There wasn't.
So, I learned to stiffen up my lip and not to pout.
I straightened up my back and...I pulls my load.
Up and down this long, dark ,and deadly, uneasy road.

There's been plenty bowing and scraping, and a who buncha' belly aching.
There's been plenty twists and turns, downhill spirals and heavy loads.
And
There's been plenty rocks,, hard knocks, road blocks;
haters, racists, terrorists, and biased cops.
But I'm still walking.
Now and again I stop and share
Hoping to find some anti-racists that care,
And now and again I do, but it's rare.

Mandela, Malcolm, Medgar, Huey, Geronimo, Alabama, Chaka,
Gandhi, Rodney and MLK
Colonizers try to kill all "Our" Kings.
Damnedest thing I've ever seen.

Alabama bombing little black girls, while they're praying in the church.
Tennessee feeling bloodthirst, just mount up and go on a search.
Louisiana killing us, just because we want to vote.
Mississippi caught Medgar Evers, and 'that's all she wrote.'
That's why Nina Simone was not Alone when she sang her Song;
"MISSISSIPPI GODDAM!"

...and that's why life for me ain't been no easy road.
...and that's why HUMAN__KIND means we must be both.
...and that's why I've vowed to God to make this my oath.

So, the terroristic murder of Emmitt Till that made my Momma cry
Makes me know that:
Emmitt Un-Till I die
I will live the truth and expose the lie!.

Now that's the way life is 'sposetobe.

And I know that it ain't no easy road.
But it's the road, and I choose to walk it.

Which road do you choose to walk?