

## 47 Black

### "Paul Robeson (Born To Be Free)"

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You can wreck my name, vilify me, stretch me on the rack  
But I won't bow down to any man, be he white or be he black  
Take away my passport, refuse to let me travel  
But I will not get down on my knees,  
You're never gonna make me grovel  
There's a lot more to democracy than havin' a vote  
I'm the equal here of any man, free my people, let them go  
These chains around my body are never gonna hold me  
And I refuse to be a slave in my own country  
The great are only great 'cause we're down on our knees  
Rise up, my brothers and sisters, we were born to be free  
Born to be free

You can call me a traitor but I love my country  
And I will not sell out it because of your hypocrisy  
I refuse to hide behind the Fifth, I've no fear of honesty  
You always know exactly where I am, so why don't you just  
Come on over here and get me  
You can tap my phone but there's one thing you will never hear  
'Cause the drumbeat of freedom wasn't meant for your slaves' ears  
I'll never turn my back on my comrades and my friends  
The poor and the dispossessed, the women and the men  
The great are only great 'cause we're down on our knees  
Rise up, my brothers and sisters, we were born to be free  
Born to be free

I stand here struggling for the rights of my people to be full citizens in this country and they are not!  
Close your halls to stop me singin'  
Close your minds to stop me speakin'

Close your kitchens to stop me eatin'  
Close your hotels to stop me sleepin'  
But I'll never turn my back on my comrades and my  
friends  
The poor and the dispossessed, the women and the  
men  
The great are only great 'cause we're down on our  
knees  
Rise up, my brothers and sisters, we were born to be  
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free  
Born to be free

I am born and bred in this America of ours. I want to  
love it, but we must have the courage  
to shout at the top of our voices about our injustices,  
and we must lay the blame right where  
it has belonged for over three hundred years of slavery  
and misery - right here on our own doorstep.

My father was a slave, and my people died to build this  
country, and I'm going to stay here and  
have a part of it just like you! And no facist-minded  
people will drive me from it--is that clear?

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