

# In Memoriam: Martin Luther King, Jr.

By June Jordan

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honey people murder mercy U.S.A.  
the milkland turn to monsters teach  
to kill to violate pull down destroy  
the weakly freedom growing fruit  
from being born

America

tomorrow yesterday rip rape  
exacerbate despoil disfigure  
crazy running threat the  
deadly thrall  
appall belief dispel  
the wildlife burn the breast  
the onward tongue  
the outward hand  
deform the normal rainy  
riot sunshine shelter wreck  
of darkness derogate  
delimit blank  
explode deprive  
assassinate and batten up  
like bullets fatten up  
the raving greed  
reactivate a springtime  
terrorizing

death by men by more  
than you or I can

STOP

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They sleep who know a regulated place  
or pulse or tide or changing sky  
according to some universal  
stage direction obvious  
like shorewashed shells

we share an afternoon of mourning  
in between no next predictable  
except for wild reversal hearse rehearsal  
bleach the blacklong lunging  
ritual of fright insanity and more  
deplorable abortion  
more and  
more

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