

A Lament for When There Are No More Words: Amir Locke #SayHisName

Leader: There are no more words

**Assembly: and so much to say**

Leader: which is to say

will this time become reckoning with what some of us refuse to see

**Assembly: and some of us live every moment**

Leader: which is to say

will this moment open our hearts to how old is this story of resilience

**Assembly: and this myth of supremacy**

Leader: which is to say

will this name become the bones in our mouths

cries called forth from a country that needs to be reminded

**Assembly: black lives matter**

Leader: which is to say

will this death awaken us to our kin who must ask

**Assembly: what will it take to stay alive today:**

Leader: “I need to drive my two-year-old to daycare tomorrow morning.

To ensure we arrive alive, we won’t take public transit.”

**Assembly: Oscar Grant, say his name.**

Leader: “I removed all air fresheners from the vehicle

and double checked my registration”

**Assembly: Daunte Wright, say his name.**

Leader: “and ensured my license plates were visible.”

**Assembly: Lt. Caron Nazario, say his name.**

Leader: “I will be careful to follow all traffic rules”

**Assembly: Philando Castille, say his name.**

Leader: “signal every turn”

**Assembly: Sandra Bland, say her name.**

Leader: “keep the radio volume low”

**Assembly: Jordan Davis, say his name.**

Leader: “and won’t stop at a fast food chain for a meal.”

**Assembly: Rayshard Brooks, say his name.**

Leader: "I'm too afraid to pray"  
**Assembly: Rev. Clementa C. Pickney, say his name.**

Leader: "so I just hope the car won't break down"  
**Assembly: Corey Jones, say his name.**

Leader: "or that we won't have an accident and need help."  
**Assembly: Renisha McBride, say her name.**

Leader: "When my wife picks up our child at the end of the day,  
I'll reminder her not to let him dance"  
**Assembly: Elijah McClain, say his name.**

Leader: "or stop and play in a park"  
**Assembly: Tamir Rice, say his name.**

Leader: "or patronize the local convenience store for snacks"  
**Assembly: Trayvon Martin, say his name.**

Leader: "or walk around the neighborhood"  
**Assembly: Mike Brown, say his name.**

Leader: " they are home, we won't stand in our backyard"  
**Assembly: Stephon Clark, say his name.**

Leader: "or eat ice cream on the couch"  
**Assembly: Botham Jean, say his name.**

Leader: "or play any video games."  
**Assembly: Atatiana Jefferson, say her name.**

Leader: "After we tuck him into bed,  
neither of us will leave the house to go to Walmart"  
**Assembly: John Crawford, say his name.**

Leader: "or on a jog."  
**Assembly: Ahmaud Arbery, say his name.**

Leader: "We'll just sit and try not to breathe"  
**Assembly: George Floyd, say his name.**  
**Byron Williams, say his name.**  
**Eric Garner, say his name.**

Leader: “and not to sleep.”  
Assembly: **Breonna Taylor, say her name.**  
**Amir Locke, say his name.**

Leader: “These are things white people simply do not have to think about.”  
Assembly: **What will it take to stay alive today?**

Leader: which is to say  
there is no justice for the dead  
no trial can restore a life  
Assembly: **no verdict can repair**  
**what has been stolen**

Leader: which is to say  
the names  
Assembly: **which is to say**  
**love**

Leader: which is to say  
abolition  
Assembly: **which is to say**  
**white supremacy is a lie**

Leader: which is to say  
#BlackLivesMatter  
Assembly: **which is to say**  
**image of God**

Leader: which is to say  
these names  
until we dream a world to life  
where there is no more need  
to say the names  
Assembly: **because we will be here**  
**breathing together**  
**in peace.**

- By Sharon R. Fennema and David Gray  
(text in quotation marks is from a Facebook post by David Gray)