

POETIC EXPRESSIONS:

VOICES CRYING

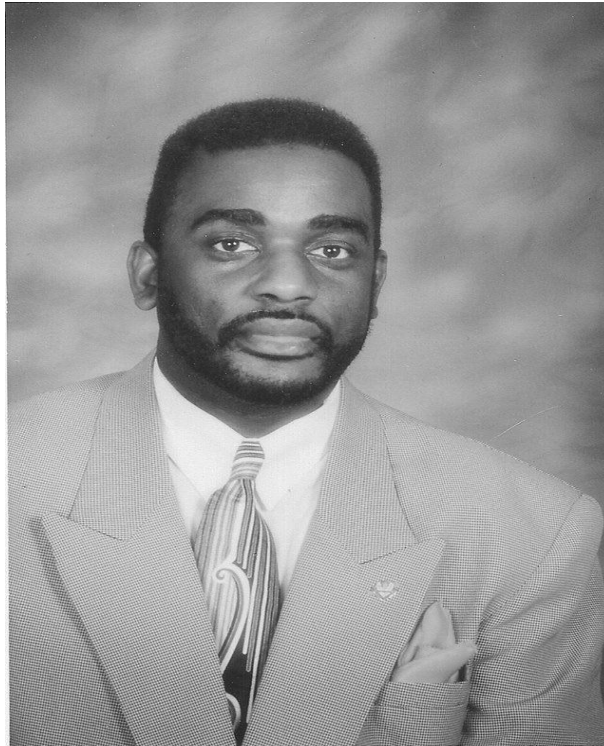
Out



▶ DR. ERROLL L. ROYAL

About the Author

Dr. Erroll L. Royal is a retired educator with 40 years of professional experience as a school administrator in the elementary, middle, and high school levels. He is a motivational speaker, workshop facilitator, musician, and mentor group organizer. He has formerly served as a high school guidance counselor, and a psychology professor and director of academic advising at Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina. He is a graduate of New Bern Senior High School in New Bern, North Carolina, and he holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Shaw University, master of arts in psychology, master of arts in school counseling, a master of arts in education administration from North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina, Ed. S (Educational Specialist) and Ed. D from Liberty University, and a Ph. D in counseling psychology from Regent University. He resides with his family in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Introduction

Many of the poems in this book were written many years ago. Most of these poems exemplify a ray of hope in a world where there is so much turmoil, confusion, deception and destruction. Some of the unfortunate conditions that are articulated in these poems that were written a long time ago, are still prevalent today. Poetic Expressions: Voices Crying Out is a testament of the hurt, struggles, injustices, and inhuman treatment of a group of people who have fought so hard for justice and equality. Does anyone hear the voices of despair, disharmony and discord among a group of people who were brought to a country against their own free will? The TRUTH must be told!!

I concur with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King. "Some of us who have already begun to break the silence of the night have found that the calling to speak is often a vocation of agony, but we must speak. We must speak with all the humility that is appropriate to our limited vision, but we must speak. And we must rejoice as well, for surely this is the first time in our nation's history that a significant number of its religious leaders have chosen to move beyond the prophesying of smooth patriotism to the high grounds of a firm dissent based upon the mandates of conscience and the reading of history. Perhaps a new spirit is rising among us. If it is, let us trace its movement well and pray that our own inner being may be sensitive to its guidance, for we are deeply in need of a new way beyond the darkness that seems so close around us."

"THE TRUTH WILL BE TOLD AND OUR VOICES MUST BE HEARD!"

Acknowledgements

First, and foremost, the author wishes to express humble gratitude to God for His guidance, protection, and wisdom in the writing of these poems. Second, I would like to dedicate these poems to my deceased mother, Sarah Louise Royal, deceased father, George Henry, and deceased brother, Randy B. Royal. Lastly, I dedicate these poems to the students with whom I've had the privilege to work over the past years. "You've been my INSPIRATION!!"

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword.....	ix
Introduction.....	2
Acknowledgements.....	3
A Friend Forever.....	5
Life's Simple Things.....	6
Silence Isn't Always Bad.....	8
Stop the Blame.....	9
I Too, Been There.....	11
The Last Lesson.....	12
Forgiveness.....	14
Where Do I Go from Here?.....	15
The Best Mother.....	16
Trials to Triumphant.....	17
My Last Will and Testament.....	18
To My Wife.....	19
One Appointment You Can't Miss.....	20
Someone Bigger Than You and I.....	21
What Would Martin Say?.....	22
I Pledge My Love.....	24
A Salute to Mr. Obama.....	25
Church Folk.....	26
The Pathway to Healing.....	27
The Essence of Love.....	29
There Is Hope.....	30
I Often Wonder Why.....	31
Why Bad Things Happen to Good People.....	32
Just Hold On.....	33
God, Why Did You Leave Me?.....	34
Behind Bars.....	36
Destruction.....	37
One Fallen Soldier.....	38
My Homeless Friend.....	39
It's Your Choice.....	30