

If I Were Black

(A white man's attempt to grok Blackness in America)

how long shall I wait?
four hundred years not enough?
patience wearing thin

slaves freed ... oh, really?
Reconstruction's repair failed
Jim Crow's brutal siege

law-blind lynchings blessed
civil rights' green shoots gave hope
Martin's light snuffed out

White Power lives on
plantation mind-set creeps north
clock ticking backward

in land of my birth
equality still eludes
where can I breathe free?

Question: Is a white reader's gut reaction to this poem a litmus test for racism? Discuss.



Image source: change.org