



POETRY  
FOUNDATION

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1968

## A Historical Footnote to Consider Only When All Else Fails

BY NIKKI GIOVANNI

(For Barbara Crosby)

While it is true  
(though only in a factual sense)  
That in the wake of a  
Her-I-can comes a  
Shower  
Surely I am not  
The gravitating force  
that keeps this house  
full of panthers

Why, LBJ has made it  
quite clear to me  
He doesn't give a  
Good goddamn what I think  
(else why would he continue to *masterbate* in public?)

Rhythm and Blues is not  
The downfall of a great civilization  
And I expect you to  
Realize  
That the Temptations  
have no connection with  
The CIA

We must move on to  
the true issues of  
Our time  
like the mini-skirt  
Rebellion  
And perhaps take a  
Closer look at  
Flour power

It is for Us  
to lead our people  
out of the  
Wein-Bars

into the streets  
into the streets  
(for safety reasons only)  
Lord knows we don't  
Want to lose the  
support  
of our Jewish friends

So let us work  
for our day of Presence  
When Stokely is in  
The Black House  
And all will be right with  
Our World

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