

Jourdan Keith

Read before the Seattle City Council, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Because it is September 11th and because I often go to the green places in this Emerald City, I offer these words.

Hear the ancient scream  
of towers, shadow songs to  
river cut off

In the African tradition we call out the names of those that have gone before but there are too many.

WE CAN NOT CALL THE NAMES  
of all the rivers  
that do not flow down  
city subway streets

WE CAN NOT CALL THE NAMES  
put words to faces  
that do not come home tired  
anymore

WE CAN NOT CALL THE NAMES  
of brown-eyed children  
lying in the dust of home

America, Iraq, Afghanistan  
but we can remember

*-- end --*