

## **This Sacred Scene**

**By Amanda Gorman**

(debuted at the 2024 Democratic National Convention)

We gather at this hollowed place  
because we believe in the American dream.

We face a race that tests if this country we cherish  
shall perish from the Earth  
and if our Earth shall perish from this country.

It falls to us to ensure that we do not fall,  
for a people that cannot stand together  
cannot stand at all.

We are one family  
regardless of religion, class or color.

For what defines a patriot is not just our love of liberty  
but our love of one another.

This is loud in our country's call because while we all love freedom,  
it is love that frees us all.

Empathy emancipates,  
making us greater than hate or vanity,  
*that* is the American promise.

Powerful and pure,  
divided we cannot endure  
but united, we can endeavor to humanize our democracy  
and endear democracy to humanity.

And make no mistake,  
coherence is the hardest task history ever wrote.

But tomorrow is not written by our odds of hardship  
but by the audacity of our hope,  
by the vitality of our vote.

Only now approaching this rare air  
are we aware  
that perhaps the American dream is no dream at all  
but instead a dare  
to dream together.

Like a million roots tethered,  
branching up humbly,  
making one tree, this is our country

from many, one,  
from battles, won,  
our freedoms sung, our kingdom come has just begun.

We redeem this sacred scene  
ready for our journey from it together.

We must birth this early republic  
and achieve an unearthly summit  
let us not just believe in an American dream,  
let us be worthy of it.