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“Out of the huts of history’s shame
I rise
Up from a past that’s rooted in pain
I rise
I’m a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling, I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that’s wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise”

That is the beginning of the poem “Still I Rise” by Maya Angelou, an African American writer, educator, poet, historian, and civil rights activist. The legendary Ms. Angelou was one of many great writers and thinkers recognizing, celebrating, and advancing the History of the African People not only during the African History Month in February, but in her daily walk on this Journey called “Life.”

In an interview, Ms. Angelou stated that “although she is excited at the progress of African Americans, she worries that some have become increasingly removed from the hard-fought struggles of the Civil Rights Movement and the ancestors who “stood on auction blocks and got up before sunrise and worked in the fields after sunset so you could be alive today.” Young people, she said, “don’t realize that they’ve already been paid for.”

In past *Islas* issues, we have written about many civil rights activists, including Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. But in the United States (U.S.) and abroad there are many activists that come in the form of singers, entertainers, and just everyday people, like YOU. *Islas* is and has always been a vehicle to chronicle the good deeds of those “everyday heroes” that continue to fight the good fight for the rights and justice of African descendants. Continue sending in your stories, opinions, and comments...and we will keep informing the world of all that you are doing.

“You may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with
your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but
still, like air,
I’ll rise!”