



## Ain't I American?

---

*By AAWA Member Rolyat Mosi*

There's no clean vanilla version  
of this story.

There's no need for tracking  
dates of U.S. State's slavery  
abolishment.

There's no need to focus on  
Mississippi's final approval of  
Emancipation Proclamation.

There's no poetic piece that  
can make it easier to  
emotionally swallow or be  
digestively gentle.

There is no analysis on how  
Juneteenth managed through  
its life in American society.

Tracks that squash away with each  
wave.

Was our path to this land.  
Like bundles we came,  
child, woman, and man.

Ain't I American?  
Barely getting in  
and never fitting in,  
Even the legal law moves  
Away from us with a bend.

The pain of cotton fibers breath in  
the mind  
for half a millennium have helped  
shape this place  
We fit in the works of the mix with  
every other race.

Ain't I American?

Legislated out of the mainstream,  
beaten off the sidelines.  
Contributions like a light beam,  
always fighting to relieve social  
binds.

Ain't I American too?

Painting this land's future  
with work of our new lives.  
Shaping in chance situations  
that seem to cut like knives.

Ain't I American like you?!

Ain't I American my friend?

Always facing the blues as  
I try to get to school with no  
shoes.

Educated with books that exclude.

Ain't I American or is it news?

We expand technology and you  
give us dirt.

Take our money to the lunar  
surfaces,  
leaving us here on this old earth.

Ain't I American by birth?

Tracks that squash away with each  
wave.

Was our path to this land.

Like bundles we came,  
child, woman, and man.

Ain't I American?



