

# Is It Because I'm Black (Instrumental)

## Syl Johnson

The dark brown shades of my skin, only add colour to my tears  
That splash against my hollow bones, that rocks my soul  
Looking back over my false dreams, that I once knew  
Wondering why my dreams never came trueIs it because I'm black?  
    Somebody tell me, what can I do  
    Something is holding me back  
        Is it because I'm black?  
        In this world of no pity  
    I was raised in the ghetto of the city  
        Momma, she works so hard  
        To earn every penny  
    Something is holding me back  
Is it because I'm black?Like a child stealing candy for the first time, and got caught  
    Thiefing around life's corner somewhere I got lost  
        Something is holding me back  
        I wonder, is it because I'm black?  
        Somebody tell me what can I do  
    Will I survive, or will I die?You keep on holding me back  
        You keep on holding on  
        You keep on picking on me  
        You keep on holding me back  
        You keep on holding on  
        You keep on holding on  
        You're holding me back  
    I wonder why, you do me like that  
    But you keep on holding me back  
    You keep on putting your foot on me  
        But I, I've got to break away  
        Somehow and someday  
        Cause I wanna be somebody so bad, so bad  
    I wanna be somebody, I wanna be somebody so bad  
    You see, I want diamond rings and things, like you do  
        And I wanna drive Cadillac cars  
        I wanna be somebody so bad  
    But you keep on putting your foot on me  
    And I, I believe, I believe I can break away  
And be somebody, somehow, and somewayYa see, I heard somebody say one time  
        You can make it, if you try  
        And some of us, we tried so hard, we tried so hard

I want you to know that I don't speak for myself  
But I speak for y'all too right now  
Ya see, if you have white-like brown skin and a high yeller  
You're still black  
So we all got to stick together right now  
This I wanna say to you my sisters and my brothers  
Right on sister  
Right on brotherDig this:  
And we keep on pushing down  
We've got to make it a little bit further  
We've got to make it a little further  
All we got to do is try, try, try  
And some of us, we've tried so hard  
We've tried so hard, we've tried so hard  
We've tried so hard, so hard to be somebody  
We've tried so hard, although, they're holding us back  
And it stairs the reason, that they're doing us like that  
You know what? It is  
I believe, it is because we are black  
But hey, we can't stop now, we can't stop now  
We've got to keep on, keep on, keep on, keeping on  
We've got to keep on keeping on  
I know and I know and I know that you know that I know it ain't right  
Oh, it ain't right, it ain't right, it ain't right  
That they hold us, hold us, hold us back  
They're holding us back, they're holding us back  
I wonder, sometimes I sit down, sit down and I wonder

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