

That our precious blood not be shed in vain



IF WE MUST DIE

If we must die, let it not be like hogs
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
Making their mock at our accursed lot.
If we must die, O let us nobly die,
So that our precious blood may not be shed
In vain; then even the monsters we defy

Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!
Oh kinsmen! we must meet the common foe!
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one deathblow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!

CLAUDE McKAY 1922

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NOTED SURGEON. Born in Pennsylvania, he earned his M.D. degree from Chicago Medical School in 1883. He founded Provident Hospital in Chicago in 1891, and performed the first successful heart operation in 1893. In 1894 he reorganized Freedman's Hospital in Washington, D.C. He became the first Black staff physician with St. Luke and Mercy Hospital in Chicago. Affiliated with Northwestern University School of Medicine, he was elected a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1913.

