

“I, Too” by Langston Hughes (1925)

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed--

I, too, am America.

SOURCE: Langston Hughes, "I, Too," *Collected Poems by Langston Hughes* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994).