I Apologize: An Open Poem to My Mother (Freda C. Ellis) and All Hardworking Women Who Are Misunderstood
By Dr. Goddess www.drgoddess.com

Because the personal is political . . .

I apologize
For all the times I looked at you askew
For tilting my head in 45 degree confusion
For being so shortsighted,
Thinking there was something wrong with you
I apologize
For all the times I tried to rationalize
How you should make your goals anew
I wondered if you needed a motivational crew
To assure you that you could do better than you were
I wondered why you worked so hard but could never get too far
My analysis was subpar
And
I apologize
For thinking there could possibly be something inherently
Residing in your disposition
That prevented you from being treated equally
My thought process was silly
And immature
I was sure
You could do better
I never understood the system that was designed to
Make you work just as hard as a man
But still end up earning a wage that was lesser-than
You're getting 70 cents for every one of his
The Women's Movement is not over
because that's no way to live

So I will work for equality
So women get equal pay
I will work for equality
So no other mother has to live this way
I will work for equality
Because justice is that important to me
You see
I accused my own glorious example of maternity
Of not living up to her potential
When it was the entire society
In which she lived
All the while she worked harder
'til she had nothing but love to give
So I cease and desist the way I fussed over this

I insist on justice
So women get equal pay
I will work for equality
So no other mother has to live this way

And in this city, in particular
Where the stats dip much lower, anyway
I insist on being a better daughter
I insist because living here, you earned 69 cents on the dollar
It's an understatement when Marvin Gay sang
About these being the types of conditions that
Makes me wanna holler
and
Now I'm all the wiser
But for all the times
I was lacking
in my analysis
Passing judgments
Misunderstanding
Her circumstances
For all the work she did and got underpaid
For not understanding the relationship between every second and third job
And every extended day
I apologize for blaming you
For women's unequal pay
So today
I say now
Publicly to all who witness this injustice
And maintain their variety of sobriety
While keeping their pain inside
I apologize

And I insist on justice
So women get equal pay
I insist on justice
So no other mother has to live this way
I insist on justice
So women get equal pay
I insist on justice
So I don't have to live this way
I insist on justice
So women get equal pay
I insist on justice
So we don't have to live this way

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