

**I Apologize: An Open Poem to My Mother (Freda C. Ellis)
and All Hardworking Women Who Are Misunderstood**

By Dr. Goddess

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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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