

Unity@Page  
**SoulFood for Thought**  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021  
**B:M2021**

**STILL I RISE - MAYA ANGELOU**

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may tread me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Does my touch offend you?  
Does my sassiness upset you?  
Does my touch offend you?

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Does my touch offend you?  
Does my sassiness upset you?  
Does my touch offend you?


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**AFRICAN PROVERB**  
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**SUGARCANE IS SWEETEST AT ITS JOINT**

An old African Proverb that means the good and sweet things of life may appear difficult to achieve but, in the end, they are worth the effort.

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**Highlighting Black Excellence**  
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**TESSEMA DOSHO SHIFFERAW**  
Inventor



**TOP 3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Invented the Bowflex exercise machine, one of the first Direct to Consumer fitness products of its time
- Planted over 60,000 trees for a village in Ethiopia creating jobs and opportunity for a local community
- Built a water pipe in Kofu, Ethiopia to bring fresh water to a community and served as a donor to several organizations supporting the progress and opportunity for Ethiopians in the country and the diaspora

**FUN FACT**

Dosho arrived in America at age 17 and had to soon drop out of college to take odd jobs after a political revolution took over Ethiopia and most of his immediate family was either jailed or killed. He supported himself and his young growing family as a cab driver and worked as valet services at multiple hotels. While studying industrial design and engineering at San Francisco City College, his idea for the Bowflex was born after working on a class project aimed to design an ergonomic chair.

**LEARN MORE**

A true renaissance man, Dosho was the epitome of inspiration, living by example of what it means to relentlessly create for good despite how many people still tell you no. Despite many adversities Dosho's life was the American dream story; his passion, commitment and courage still inspire many today.

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**OUT THE AUTHOR**

Deon is a 26-year-old ex-engineer who founded a venture-backed company which provides an AI driven chatbot for customer service and customer success teams. Since its inception, in partnership with Sami Ghoche, the company won TechCrunch's Disrupt Battlefield start-up contest, and raised \$9M in Series A funding. In October 2020, the company raised an additional \$17M in funding, led by several companies and individuals including NEA, Geodesic Capital, Sound Venture, Sean Combs (Diddy), LL Cool J, and more.



**IMPACT**

The murder of George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor and the ensuing international protests rightfully caused a pause in everyday business, impacting the Series B funding of Forethought, but it also shined a necessary spotlight on another level of systemic racism. The lack of Black and Black female venture-backed founders in Silicon Valley. Regardless, the Forethought team's creativity and perseverance has established "Agatha," their hero chatbot product as a stand-out in the world of tech.

**Deon Nicholas**  
CEO, Forethought


It is really important to tell a new story, change the face of what success looks like. I've always been a builder, so if that's what I can do for the world, then I'm going to do that and make waves while I'm at it.

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**HARLEM - LANGSTON HUGHES**

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up  
like a raisin in the sun?  
Or fester like a sore—  
And then run?  
Does it stink like rotten meat?  
Or crust and sugar over—  
like a syrupy sweet?  
Maybe it just sags  
like a heavy load.  
Or does it explode?



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

James Mercer Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist from Joplin, Missouri. He was a central figure in the Harlem Renaissance, the flowering of black intellectual, literary, and artistic life that took place in the 1920s in several American cities, particularly Harlem.

Read the full posts & more on the Unity@Page Yammer group!