



I AM AMERICAN

A Civic Poem by Sarah Suhr

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I am American
Not because of the color of my skin
Or the language I speak
Or the religion I follow
Or the person I love
Or because of who I believe is up above

I am American
Because I woke up and decided not to give up on this country
I am American
Because I'm lucky enough to be
And for the past few years
I wasn't proud to call myself an American
Because being an American meant
Being selfish
And divided
I've now decided
To regain my citizenship

Not because of who the current president is
But because I realized
That there's people who would fight for the right that I already have
There's people who would risk their lives to be a citizen
And I may not be proud of the country I live in
But the only way to fix that is to make a difference
And get rid of the bitterness
We all need to deliberate
And communicate
We can't do anything if we don't collaborate
I'm here to commiserate

I know that I can't relate to everything everyone's been through
I'm aware I have privilege
But I have struggles too
We all have something to lose
But the one thing we can choose
Is democracy
We need to lose the hypocrisy
And lead not by the example of power
But by the power of our example
These last 4 years have been a sample
Of what not to do

We need to look at this country
Through a new point of view
We have to step back and review
The choices we made
Remember the ways they've affected us
Then, now, and always
And make America the place
It was meant to be
We've become too blind to see
It's you and me
Not you or me

We've lost sight of everything
Even the bare necessities
The problem happened when we stopped stressing
About the well being of this country
And started worrying about who was right and who was wrong
We need to see the light and seize the dawn
We have to pause and take a break
We can't move on
Until we're all caught up
This is a restart
A pause button
A throw back
We have to go back
To the intentions of this nation
We were intended to be patient
But we jumped the gun
And focused more on guns than the safety of our people

But I digress
Nonetheless,

I am American
I stand with this country
Through its good and its bad
We're all we have
But it's so deceiving
Misleading
We've started retreating
Our unity is receding

The people are leading
But not in the way we should be

The people lead the revolution
But our country was built on slavery
And I know you don't think that relates
To what I was previously saying
But I promise it does

We tend to think about how our actions affect us
And only us
That's not the mindset a leader should have
We have no leader
When half of us are treated as inferior
Because of things we can't control
Our nation is out of control
But the one thing we can control
Is our lack of control

Because we the people
Have a voice
But we don't have control until we choose to use it
We can't have power
Until we choose not to abuse it
We used to have democracy
But we chose to lose it

