it is our own compassion...

If you could 'tune in' your inner ear as you would a radio
If you could 'tune in' your inner sight as you would a television set
You would see countless Beings
In an inferno of pain and confusion and bewilderment
Crying deep against their innocence outraged these
And the sounds and images of fear in us
The fear of living
The fear of Being free
The fear of freedom
The apprehension of impending disaster that escorts us
And inhibits us while we wander
And wonder about the world we live in
And this nation we call ours
And particularly this state of Mississippi
Which is a part of this Nation
A part of this world in this so-called enlightened age

The valley of death is now in Mississippi
The Negro there has used up all his fear
He knows who he is and what he is fighting for
No more can be taken from him
He has no more to lose
He cannot look upon suffering for he is suffering itself
And we have reference to his Being there
Not many tears are shed by those who have no time to cry
Tears are for some of us who read about and hear about and look upon
The images and the results of terror and injustice
That assail our consciousnesses
And entangle us in one end or the other
Of the lynch rope

Are we the lynchers or the lynched?

If there are tears and anguish,
It is our own compassion coming into being
We are the lynched.

For Joseph and his darker brothers now
The shame and the guilt of the knowledge of slavery
His degradation has been expiated
Whatever was the sin that he committed
beyond the flood
That aboriginal sin has now been rendered miniscule
In the heat of ovens and atoms
And channels of imagined shambles
Blame and shame and guilt are words out of the past
The past has been.
Now is another and the only time
The time now of enlightenment for him
A chance now of enlightenment for all of us
In helping him to realize his rights and privileges so long denied
We help to liberate the genius suppressed that will enrich humanity
His liberation must be known to him
By giving and doing
All that we are able to do and to give in this regard
We help ourselves
We help ourselves to realize freedom from fear of Being free
We help ourselves to live without the fear of freedom
We release ourselves from guilt
The guilt out of the past that we will know anew
That we must surely know now
Even if we now turn away
Or cover our outer ears
Or close our outer eyes (There are four eyes in Mississippi)
We appeal to you in the name of JAMES CHANEY
In the name of MICHAEL SCHWERNER
In the name of ANDREW GOODMAN
Three who were crucified to set men free
In this year of our Lord

A benefit performance of "THE AMEN CORNER"
By one of America's most distinguished writers - JAMES BALDWIN
Is the means by which we intend to raise $10,000
To aid CO-FO in Mississippi
Miss Bea Richards the magnificent artist we are honored to introduce
Who was born and raised in Mississippi
The actors all and the production staff
All, all are pleased to help in making this
An evening you will remember with gladness
For as long as you will live—For as long as you will live

Humbly I thank the many friends who have sponsored this communication

THE COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS (CO-FO) HAS BEEN IN THE VANGUARD BRINGING ENLIGHTENMENT AND EDUCATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN KEPT FROM LEARNING OR EXERCISING THE PRIVILEGES OF CITIZENSHIP. SIT DOWN THE AUGUST NIGHT OF FRIDAY THE TWENTY-EIGHT, IT WILL INDEED BE MADE AN AUGUST TWENTY-EIGHT. THE TICKETS ARE FIFTY, THIRTY AND TWENTY DOLLARS. THE CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO: FREEDOM MISSISSIPPI TO BE SENT TO THE

CORONET THEATRE
366 N. La Cienega Blvd.
Los Angeles 48, Calif.

PLEASE ACT NOW — AMEN

FREEDOM MISSISSIPPI