

My Name

**By Zeina Azzam, a Palestinian American poet,
writer, editor, and community activist.**

<https://radicaldiscipleship.net/2023/11/16/my-name/>

Write my name on my leg, Mama
Use the black permanent marker
with the ink that doesn't bleed
if it gets wet, the one that doesn't melt
if it's exposed to heat

Write my name on my leg, Mama
Make the lines thick and clear
Add your special flourishes
so I can take comfort in seeing
my mama's handwriting when I go to sleep

Write my name on my leg, Mama
and on the legs of my sisters and brothers
This way we will belong together
This way we will be known
as your children

Write my name on my leg, Mama
and please write your name
and Baba's name on your legs, too
so we will be remembered
as a family

Write my name on my leg, Mama
Don't add any numbers
like when I was born or the address of our home
I don't want the world to list me as a number
I have a name and I am not a number

Write my name on my leg, Mama
When the bomb hits our house
When the walls crush our skulls and bones
our legs will tell our story, how
there was nowhere for us to run