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Superstar

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Amiri Baraka

Superstar

We thought it was a game. Toss the ball
up through the stone ring. Miss too often
they take yr head

But then it went on & on, & the referees looked
stupid. Turning to look at the crowd,
we saw they were in chains

Now it occurred to us, that something weird had happened
The other team surrounded us dressed in steel.
We cd see our dead brothers strewn around the court
& their wives and family bent mourning them

looking up at the score board was worse
Our faces were painted there, glamorous
in nooses & headless

You were wondering what we did next?
This is next. Right Now. And
we're still trying to figure it out.