

Are You Truly FREE?

By: Calvin Bell III

Freedom: “The power
or right to act,
speak or think
as one wants
without hindrance or constraint.”

Capitalism: “An economic structure
based on private ownership of the means of production
and their operation for profit.”

You see,
there is a big misconception that a free market makes one free,
but what we
have are free-market capitalism and unfree
people.

Just observe the world around you.
The plants that used to grow,
rivers that once flowed,
living things that walked on this very ground
—all gone.

We live in solitude.
In houses from the mountains, trees, oceans, and sky
because we massacred for money.
With new technology
and machines
because we fabricated for money.
With education forced into our minds and down our throats
so, we can work for money.

We no longer cherish the way we used to revolve around the sun
because we are now longing to continue revolving around money:
the need to get it,
use it,
get,
use,

want for what?

Time is money.
And replacing the natural landscape takes time and money.
Too much time and money
to harness clean energy.
So, the flowers will continue to wither and die
the same way our clear skies
will turn dark for its funeral.
It is hard to see beauty anymore as it slowly fades away.

They say the older one gets,
the wiser they are
But look,
education degenerates:
From basic learning skills
to the complex,
specific,
economic,
to the money.

When your teacher asks you “what do you want to be when you get older,”
It usually ends up with striving and following your precious dream.
And you could do whatever you put your mind to,
But then you realize that their aspirations for you were just that
—aspirations.
Because you’re put into a hole,
and you must hold
onto the edge for dear life
Because if you argue back,
you’ll fall.

Through the idea of materialism
The world has made our self-interest our self-worth.
Can you not enjoy what you do without being asked how much you made?
NO!
Can you live life without meeting the standard of living?
NO!

You are the gears,
the bolts,
and the gas that runs the industrial machine.
You are the believers of this dreamt-of,
but unfortunately, unattainable Dream.

You are trapped in physical structures,
locked in mental cells,
lost in a carceral time zone.
You are the child of free-market capitalism
and the student of neoliberalism,
Which I think is about white,

but I digress.
So, I guess
the question is, do you still think that you are truly free?
“The power
or right to act,
speak or think
as one wants
without hindrance or constraint.”