

POETIC ENTRY on RESENTENCING ("untitled") by CD. Everett #R26189  
To: THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS

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The introduction into an unknown impetus  
breeding continuous misinterpretations  
building walls designed to hinder us,  
Fixated by the illusion of harmony  
Even saying "In God we Trust."  
While generations suffer denigration  
at every whim of the master's lust.  
Thinking, well... it's innocuous,  
Three-Fifths human is how God made 'em  
Whip 'em and beat 'em to show 'em the way.  
Like doctrines of discovery it's manifest destiny  
So if need be, just cage 'em!  
No enjoyment of emancipation or service to nation in a distant land,  
Only the constant reminder of one's native skin  
and the table of "Contraband."  
How is this even possible today,  
When that was way-way back when —  
When the majority wrote the books and laws  
that displace Natives and segregated neighbors  
under the guise of being a friend.

Resentencing sounds good - Imagine the end of "Reconstruction",  
When Black excellence was on the rise,  
Stunted by Jim Crow's master racists  
And sentenced again to a bondage through lies.  
Hung and burned, even shot on site  
By ravenous mobs with Klansmen ties —  
Whose story could spin a web so strong, no jury would dare deny;  
The loss of life and liberty - My story told through another's eyes.  
Guilty as charged, then torn away to labor as a slave and die.

No honey baked ham and black eyed peas,  
only dark damp cells and cries -  
The echos of which tell another story,  
that continues to haunt and marginalize.  
No equal education or housing to motivate,  
Not even a modicum of equity to try -  
Only guilty until proven innocent  
with no reprieve to stem the tide.  
Now that's not really a surprise.  
So to reimagine then this diabolical trend  
One may need to begin by asking, why?

Why the supremacist ideologies, marking one race as best  
with the Marxist thought and errant theologies  
Crucifying Christ afresh?  
Why the denial of the pursuit of happiness  
as endowed by our creator who is blessed,  
Such as enjoyed by the rest - The political elite, and judges who agree  
who creates these bars and voting tests?  
Why then the pain and not the privilege  
of the Star Spangled Banner's respect  
As the heroes of war and Olympic greats return to be profiled  
and jailed at best.  
Why choose hate over love and disrespect  
And the fear that only arrest,  
When peace is an option whose fruit is kind  
And is not centered on self?  
Resentencing them would truly be nice  
Considering the trials that are suffered and dealt.

Resentencing, yes! It would mean a second chance at life  
As tough on crime policies long ignored  
A caste system beset against the caste -

immersed in what is their blight.

The social inequalities such as poverty that is rife

The injustice denoted by mass-incarceration

and the careless state of our plight.

The evil in "Truth In Sentencing", a long and dreary night

Produced by the Thirteenth Amendment by design -

A treacherous play in hindsight.

For the powers that be, to remedy,

The stigmatizing "Super Predator" belief,

The hopes for respite as visions collide -

The community must play for keeps.

No wishing on a star, but feet on the ground,

to secure the blessings of liberty.

As the Prison Industrial Complex makes cheap

the labor understood - so precious and sweet

So, resentencing - A contribution is absolutely what we need.

To correct the wrongs held captive so long

The bodies and minds that have searched the deep.

Brighter days I would have to imagine...

And immeasurable possibilities.

A win when situation, no gripe

Respecting life and all there is.

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