

Poem # 5)

Resurrection ~ by Marcos Ramirez # [REDACTED]
Stateville C.C. / P.O. Box 112 / Joliet, IL 60434

Mass Incarceration! How could we allow this?!
They're closing down our schools & building up these prison houses!
2.3 million locked up, most are minorities
More than Russia?! More than China?! What a twist of irony!
Let's iron these wrinkles out, no more gerrymandering
No dis-en-fran-chise-ment laws, no civil death, no banishing
Zanguishing, suppressing my vote 'cause "i'm" a felon?!
Now that's that New Jim Crow - Manipulate Elections
With War on Crime, War on Drugs, 3 Strikes out, Doing Life
It's not making sense, though! It's not deterring crime!
They're not preventing lives from falling by the way-side
Invest in my education, don't leave me dumb and blind
Give me drug treatment, I need some job-training
Coordinated Support Groups to help me re-integrate
Don't let me recidivate in this Race to Incarcerate!
Just 'cause i'm Brown or Black?! You racists should be ashamed!
These racial disparities, they give me more clarity
Abusing your powers, from slaves-to-felons, like Pharisees
You Hypocrites! Brood of Vipers! Government Syndicates!
It's-not-til-it-hurts-your-pockets-that-you-are-deciding-to-reconsider-this?!
And while you're at it stop manufacturing voters!
We're not your constituents! We don't share the same interests!
We want prison reforms and more logical sentences!
Make sense of this - Restoring us back as useful citizens
Restoring our rights to vote so "we" can make a difference
So "we" can contribute and save the lives of our children
Reach-'em-and-teach-'em-to-vote; Breed-'em-to-meet-every-goal
To-redeem-us-succeeding-deleting-the-evil-Jim-Crow-and-so-we
Mobilize-to-Reform-Dis-pro-portion-alized
Laws-that-were-formed-to-paralyze-us
Prisons-to-industrialize-us
It's complex! Like Schools-to-Prisons Projects
Cabrini-to-Stateville, They've got us stacked like Objects
In this process, we've got the power
To put down them guns and pick up ballots in this hour
To pick up these books with North Park in these classes
Acquire the knowledge and pay it forward to our families

I thank God for Michelle and Vickie
Melissa and Lyds keeps it Litty!

Alicia Reese, Cheryl Lynn, Sara Woody, and Katie
DJ, April, Cheyenne, Acacia, Will, and all our Friends
Forever we'll fend for all the poor and the oppressed
Together we can make a difference
Strategize de-liver-ance

Restoring our voting rights and political might in this
typical fight, it gives us spiritual sight, and if
we can persevere watch our myrical rise and spread!

RESURRECTION!