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Bipolar Nation; In Hopes Of Tomorrow; Paradoxical Legacies

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Bipolar Nation

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Civil unrest
Civil disobedience
Calls for subordination
Calls for enforcement of divisive ideologies
of othering
Lives in turmoil as fear blankets them
ICE agents knocking on doors
Rounding up breathing, living, loving beings
as if they were cattle being led to slaughter
Mothers and fathers separated from their
children
Families in disarray as if they were being
auctioned off for Southern plantations
For a simplified prescription for a complex
circumstance
The hypocrisy of the time is one of major
concern
Those who celebrate their ancestors' arrival
on such places as Ellis Island
Seem to not recognize that they too were
from legacies of foreigners
Yet the romanticism ends quicker than it
really began as this has been forgotten
We want them invisible to our lives unless
they are speaking "our language"
Obeying our laws which we ourselves often
abuse or ignore
Cooking our food
Washing our clothes
Making our beds when we travel
Manicuring our lawns
An underlying principle of the "American
Way"
Exploitation of laborers in the form of free
or significantly reduced labor
Voiceless
Faceless
Humanless

A nation is again putting those who are
different on notice
Pray like us
Believe in our God
Believe in our Way
Concede your history and beliefs for a better
way
A way made in "America"
Bipolar Nation
Should be our new anthem
For we have continually practiced a policy
of forcing either or outcomes
Whether it was 1776
Or during the antebellum period
During the times of McCarthy and his hunt
for Communists
We remain steadfast in being the obstacle in
our own way
Bipolar nation
Either you have or you do not
That includes education, financial freedom,
and health care
Yet we continue to look the other way until
our hatred of others spills on our doorsteps
Our rhetoric of violence to not only those
beyond our boundaries but those who reside
within is disheartening
If you speak too sharply you may find
yourself in the reach of the tentacles of the
"Patriot Act"
More so like yelling "fire" in a crowded
movie theatre
You are labeling yourself as if you wore a
scarlet letter or Star of David
Bipolar nation
We are who we've always been yet most do
not want to see
A nation whose fractured past prevents us
from un-fracturing our present and future...

In Hopes of Tomorrow

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Testimonials provide snapshots into the
hearts and minds of the deliverer
Yet listeners translate those messages
through tempered receptors
Constructing organic truths
Privileging their distinct sensibilities
Progressivism, liberalism, moderatism, or
conservativism
Frame the lenses
socially accepted or recognized
Furthering the national pastime of
divisiveness
Found morally
Religiously
Intellectually
Sexually
Economically
Racially
Throughout the landscape
Forefathers are perpetually propagated
without further interrogation of their
imperfections as founders of a more perfect
union
A union of enslavement
Classism
Patriarchy
Reservational warfare
A more perfect union that applauds
systematic hate and oppression
The birth of a nation of, for, and by the
people
is idealistically my hope and wish for the
future inhabitants
Yet, a harsh reality exists of
Wall building
Segregation
Exclusion
Gerrymandering
Victim-blaming
Selfishness

1% has become synonymous with what it
has always been
A form of tyranny that ironically is fit for a
king
Yet, this is a nation without monarchies
Without caste systems
Without true democracy
Incompleteness is an unfortunate present
reality where
Love is not equally recognized
Cultures are not equally recognized
Languages are not equally recognized
Opportunities are not fully possible
In hopes of tomorrow
We must truly address the despair of today...

Paradoxical Legacies

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Episodic memories exert themselves
Moment by moment
Challenging us to reveal
Our ulterior motives
Those that position us in relegated privilege
Further allowing us to deny our complicit
roles.
In the preservation of the status quo
A reality that's unreal for so many
Who hurt
Who need
Who reside in
A land of unbridled arrogance and self-
righteousness
That allows for a belief in
Systematic segregation
English only and Immigration policies
Predicated on racism, xenophobia, and
nativism
A land no longer recognizing the sentence
structure of its own Constitution
A land who selectively promotes a redacted
history of land owners and oppressed
workers
The sovereignty of Native Peoples
Humanity is in a forsaken position
In this land
As are the inalienable rights to life, liberty,
and the pursuit of happiness
That were independently declared...