

Prelude to a Dream

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To pass a law
and to fundamentally change
the culture of a country
are two very different things
but are too often conflated.

If passing a law meant
transforming hearts and minds
there would be no crime
no need to rally, to march, to resist

Let us agree then
that laws are not magic.
Merely guidelines and aspirations.
Blueprints with consequences.

Only the actions of people
can transmogrify circumstances and
correct the projection a life's trajectory.

That's why the motto is
"Fair Housing Makes Us Stronger,"
not, "the fair housing act makes us stronger."

An act, fair or not, is no consolation for the death of a king
We would have never chosen to bargain our soul
for the recognition of our humanity.
To this day, the promises in that contract,
signed in Martin's blood, are yet to be fully realized.

But where laws, contracts, clever motto's and,
nowadays, even logic have failed,
maybe story will still be capable
of opening the most closed of minds
And restoring humanity to spaces
smothered by the bottom line.

A single mother of an unfavorable hue
 is attempting the great American illusion.
 This magic trick has never been easy.
 No one ever taught her how to abracadabra
 her family from one side of the tracks to the other.
 She sees the miracle that could transform her family's future
 in the form of better schools and job opportunities
 but her 750 credit score is attached to an application
 with a name that sounds too dark for the whiter side of town.
 As her spirit is cut in half by the blade of discrimination,
 her American dream is disappearing.

***When ignorance seems to always be in demand
 who needs crooked laws to draw red lines in the sand?***

Wounded Warrior welcomed home!
 Where we further wilt the tethered strands
 of the American Flag draped over the coffins
 of those not *lucky* enough to make it back
 only to face discrimination.
 The only home he can afford
 is not built to carry the weight of his sacrifice.
 No ramp - just faded glory.
 Our most vulnerable populations are waiting for us to engage

***What does it say, when America
 can no longer provide homes for the brave?***

There are a million stories just like these.
 Each representing a fundamental glitch in a system
 accepted by a country still attempting
 to reach its full potential.

First, we must open ourselves up to receive.
 Accept that just because something isn't happening to us,
 doesn't mean it's not happening.
 Just because we didn't create the system
 doesn't make us innocent, especially if we chose to profit from it.
 The truth is all around;
 while the ability to change resides inside us.
 In the end it comes down to choices
 Will you remain silent
 Or use your power and privilege
 To give voice to the voiceless.