

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Joshua Jones: Two Poems

Joshua Jones · Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019

### Beautiful Feet

I want to leave  
 this world behind  
 And saying goodbye  
     to the filth  
 that is mankind  
 People dying  
     on these streets  
 Brother killing Brother  
 Blacks killing blacks  
 Latinx killing Latinx  
 Both of us killing  
     each other  
 Appropriating each other's culture  
     And maliciously  
     and deceitful trampling  
 Each other under our feet.  
 Beating each other down  
 Just because we sound  
 and look slightly different

The dream and ambitions  
 of many aren't to thrive  
     but merely survive  
 and hope that their actions  
 will be justified and somewhere  
 along the lines  
 they'll be rectified  
     but all in all  
 they hope they  
     don't die  
 on these streets.  
 But please understand  
 there is hope  
 There are those leading

---

a change

Walking these streets with beautiful feet  
 Giving milk and meat  
 to the otherwise hungry  
 And shedding light in the dark  
 so even the blind can see

R.I.P Nipsey

He was one that tried.  
 But I wonder now how  
     many people are gonna ride  
 Or are we afraid  
     of being crucified  
     And hide  
     our faces  
 The ages before us were  
     willing  
 to suffer for a change

Look at Cesar Chavez,  
     and Dr.King  
 Who were men of sorrows  
 acquainted with grief and pain  
 but it made them warriors  
 for peace righteousness and change  
 So are we gonna  
     stand up  
 And have beautiful feet  
 Or are we gonna be products  
 of our environments  
 and behave supercilious?

\*

## My Testimony

It doesn't matter  
 if you were or are a Crip  
 Blood  
 Skinhead  
 Or an ese  
 You can still change  
 You can change that identity  
 And put it in the past man  
 But man I'd be damned  
 if someone wasn't always  
 trying to bring the past up  
 About how you used to hang  
 with people underage and smoke up

with some drink in your cup  
 and turn up an look  
 for some people to beat up  
 But hold up  
 Shut it down

That ain't yo get down  
 Well at least not anymore  
 You don't have to ignore  
 that those things happened  
 But realize that isn't  
 your current practice  
 And you don't go around trying  
 to put these things into action  
 So it doesn't matter what  
 Faction or set you claim  
 Because you can still change  
 You can change your surroundings  
 And mind frame  
 And be an impactful change  
 in the same community  
 you helped terrorize  
 You are no longer  
 a deliberate bad guy  
 Why?  
 Because you changed

It doesn't matter what  
 those simple minded people  
 say about you man  
 Because as you keep saying  
 That ain't my get down  
 So you don't have to get down  
 when you're mad  
 You can communicate  
 and try to walk away  
 So don't worry  
 about getting caught up  
 Because even if you do  
 get caught up  
 You can take a step back  
 and say Hold up  
 That ain't my get down.

*(Author photo by Malakhi Simmons)*

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