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# 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?

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## 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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