

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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