

Topic: My Favorite Season

June 1, 2020

The Season of Our Discontent

By Morri Namasté

Poverty has many faces. Sometimes it shows up as not having enough money to buy a loaf of bread. Sometimes by not having a place to call home. Then there's the poverty of opportunity. That no matter one's efforts, the door will simply not open and shame to those who try. This is the dark side of America. Only by shining the light on the darkness will we be able to see.

We somehow seem to forget that America was founded on White privilege. They certainly didn't call it that back then but nevertheless it is true. Women didn't count. The "won" the right to vote only after massive protests, some turned violent with some of those uppity sent to jail. Slaves didn't count as people. Some still feel that way. Only wealthy landowners could vote. Money barons ran the show and still do. The rich and powerful make the rules and the rest make do. Satisfied with having a job that may barely pay the rent they continue to suffer as "less thans."

In an attempt to quell dissent the rich and powerful talk of the importance of a strong military, consisting of those who have limited opportunities. The rich and powerful are good at avoiding service and very good at touting the military's importance. Thusly using the disenfranchised to quiet the disenfranchised.

Every so often a perfect storm appears. The Vietnam War Era was such a time. Social and economic injustices were challenged and some things did change, albeit slowly and not sustainable. Social and economic change occurs but does so ever so slowly and only through conflict. Colin Kaepernick was silenced and degraded by the rich and powerful and many of their ignorant wannabes. They said it was disrespectful to kneel. They blackballed him. The unmitigated violence against Black men continued. They said it was wrong to protest. Okay, but if you must please do it peacefully. The rich and powerful failed to listen. They failed to understand. They failed to take effective action to address injustices. So violence erupts which does seem to get everybody's attention. So is the breaking of store windows more important than a Black man's life? It would seem so. Unfortunately violence tends to deflect the important concerns of others yet how else to obtain change for the better? Does a massive police presence serve to prevent violence or does it encourage it?

Americans cheered as courageous Chinese citizens protested in Tiananmen Square, with one brave soul standing in front of a tank. They were protesting against injustice. Yet those who cheered this are denouncing the current protests across America. Our government reacts with violence encouraged by a president who is among the rich and powerful.

The rich and powerful gather periodically to reaffirm their march to political and economic dominance while the poor struggle and die. Unable to afford basic health care they perish in the streets, are evicted from their homes, and are denied access to education. And they are killed off to quiet their voices or imprisoned because they can't afford legal representation. America the beautiful?

Anybody interested in throwing some tea in the bay?

