

Dear America I - IX

I

I had another nightmare  
and this one was the worst  
fighters in the streets  
enter a big old fashioned hearse

which grew and grew like dream things do  
until it touched the sky  
and stacked inside were rows and rows  
of folks like you and I

Americans, who up till then,  
were living their daily lives,  
were lying down with guns in hand  
their final day arrives

They're not quite dead, not quite alive,  
but somewhere in between  
the guns become like phones to them,  
eyes frozen to the screen

They raise their phone-guns all at once  
and point them at their heads  
and just before they swipe the trig,  
I wake up in my bed

It's at this point, I have to act,  
I have to do my part  
I start to write the pain I feel,  
the anguish in my heart

II

Gun sales are at an all time high,  
can't find no ammunition  
Are people prepping for a war?  
Ammendment 2 is on a mission

Droplets, masks, and distancing,  
supplies of sanitizer  
6 feet ain't far enough away.  
Go 10, 15, be wiser

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Essential workers, thanks for being  
infections waiting to happen  
How'd we end up here, you ask  
Virus caught us hella-nappin'

Big props to those of you  
who responded to your calling  
Comfort, strength & hugs  
to the loved ones of the fallen

We the people reached a tipping point  
exploding in total rage  
Looking back, you have to ask  
have we ever been on the same page

As witnesses to the possible  
legal death of George Floyd  
We were jolted out of complacency  
and could no longer avoid

coming to terms with ourselves  
and the systems we designed  
to give advantage to some of us  
and leave some of us behind

Fear of loss is the reason  
some are married to this system  
holding tight to privilege  
and clenching us versus them

To act as if all is well  
while oppression takes it's toll  
was not an option for some of us  
who decided to save the soul

of this country and ourselves  
and the hope we hold so dear  
that justice like a mighty stream  
will water down the fear

We united around the country  
and came together around the world  
We hit the streets for justice with  
our black fist flags unfurled

## Dear America I - IX

But polar-eyes see blue versus red  
the same as south versus north  
and that led to the Civil War  
Consider that, for what it's worth

III

SM

Irreconcilable differences?  
Are we headed for divorce  
This path will surely cost us,  
both money and lives of course

We're not a perfect union,  
but we're still worth fighting for  
We can save ourselves now  
or keep spouting words of war

He said, she said - Share  
Comment and share some more  
It's time we rise above the hate  
up where we know what to ignore

Who wins when we're divided  
The ones pulling the strings?,  
The ones being manipulated?,  
Or the ones confusing things?

A team that's fighting against itself  
is a team that will not win  
True teams stop when things get hot  
and with love, proceed again

It's not enough to remind each other  
that there's way too much at stake  
We must act now to fill the cracks,  
this dam's about to break

Let's start with something simple  
and easy to understand:  
I do me and you do you,  
NO harm to fellow man

Anything that flips that script,  
we remove it from the mix

Dear America I - IX

If a more perfect union is to be,  
together we're the fix

IV

We all want better safety,  
peace, prosperity and health  
and to live our lives as best we can  
no matter what our wealth

Do we want to be that city on a hill,  
where all of us truly matter  
or a sad, collapsed empire  
where the fat cats just get fatter

Will we become the refugees?  
The asylum seeking masses  
who let power, greed and divisiveness  
destroy our selfish asses

It probably won't get that bad  
and probably won't happen soon?  
So chill with all the guns and ammo  
and posts of crude cartoons?

There is tension all around us  
feels like we're on the brink  
From sea to shining sea,  
purple mountains may just sink

I can't hate you and you can't hate me  
and expect America to survive  
We won't agree on everything but  
let's keep democracy alive

That means anyone or anything  
that weakens democracy's power  
needs to be replaced or reformed  
and monitored every hour

Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances,  
Fundamental Human Rights  
To what and whom are threatening these,  
that's where we take the fights

Dear America I - IX

Freedom of speech, choice, assembly,  
the press and religion  
Whatever limits the expression of these  
is a source of our division

Equity, Justice, Rule of Law  
and UNRESTRICTED access to vote  
Correcting what blocks the flow of these,  
that's our antidote

V

Will we be the ones who cause  
this bold experiment to fail?  
Subjecting our kids and our kid's kids  
to an avoidable trip through hell

Some can't wait to start a war  
but most want to live in peace  
ALERT: Civil war is not the same  
as policing the police!

No person or department  
has right to act above the law  
Thanks to phone-cams everywhere  
the world sees what body cams saw

We can't sit on the sidelines,  
as propaganda fills our hearts,  
being fed hate by algorithms  
that are tearing us apart

They learn what we like  
and serve us more and more extremes  
Pull our attention from real life  
so we can share fake hate news memes

Let's not forget the con men  
who are paid to get us to see  
the people we should hate  
and who's our country's enemy

They do their best to enrage us  
then offer cheap shit for sale  
give conspiracies to share on facebook  
that are sure to raise some hell

Dear America I - IX

They point out certain people  
as the reason we can't live free  
Subscribe, Share and Like and  
before you know it, there is no WE

Hate our neighbors, block our friends,  
is what they really want us to do  
The more we move away from love  
the more hate comes shining through

VI

Putin, China and Iran  
have already picked a side  
Cheering from online bleachers  
while we commit USA-icide

The note we'll leave behind  
reads like a tragic Shakespeare play  
KILLED BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE,  
is all it really needs to say

We're killing our democracy  
with the stories that we weave  
Intentionally misinforming  
and in our wake we leave  
confusion & uncertainty  
Who or what should we believe?  
True facts or alternate ones,  
opinions offered to deceive  
And now we're at each others necks  
with our hands and with our knees

VII

The lies that fill our newsfeed  
we share with friends like us  
We fight about who matters  
and abandon common trust

We're nowhere near United,  
we've got a long, long way to go  
so let's fight for needs in common  
it's the only way we grow

Dear America I - IX

It's time we figured out  
the common needs we can fulfill  
Rich or poor or middle class,  
our needs are similar still

Is it greed that we need?  
Or do we just need to have enough?  
Do we need hope and love and empathy  
or do we fill those holes with \$tuff?

Do we need the chance to make a living  
and provide for our families?  
Or do we need grabbing all that we can get  
while others pray for these?

Do we need to see humanity  
in every woman, child and man?  
Or do we need to sneer and laugh  
at those who fell for the wrong plan?

Do we need a democracy  
made better through the years?  
Or some other ocracy  
that will cleanse our sins & tears?

Do we need the kind of power  
to do whatever the hell we please?  
Or do we use the power we have  
to raise the hopeless from their knees?

VIII

Why not be there for each other,  
it won't work any other way  
I've seen us do it in disasters  
where we come and save the day!  
Well we're headed for disaster,  
let's cape up and fly love's way  
or we'll find our hearts bankrupt  
without love enough to pay  
So it matters how "us" treats "them"  
and it matters what we say

Dear America I - IX

We are “us” and we are “them”  
and we decide our fate!  
Only love can help us win,  
don’t be persuaded by the hate!

IX

The reality is we’re a team  
all the citizens of the USA  
and if we don’t fight to unite  
divided is how we will stay

Sports are a part of our culture,  
we bet on, we watch and we play  
If all 330 million of us are a team,  
What is the sport that we play?

That is the root of our problem  
We don’t know the sport that we’re playing  
and as a result, we don’t know the rules  
or how to score points, I’m just saying

Until those are known, we’re in trouble  
we’ve splintered into multiple teams  
each claiming to know what’s best for us  
denouncing the others with memes

Some of the best teams when training  
split up and play head to head  
and even if tempers get heated  
they don’t wish their teammates were dead

The Bulls and the Lakers weren’t perfect  
as they worked to become the world’s best  
they fought and they had disagreements  
their resolve to win, put to the test

Each player had skills that were different  
on the team, each would do his own part  
together they focused on trusting the work  
they put in when they trained from the heart



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Great teams do something worth noting  
The players commit to each other  
to give all they've got in pursuit of the prize  
training side by side like they're brothers

We're the players on team USA  
it's past time we decide to commit  
to unify and ignore the dividers  
who are focused on their benefit

The dividers are people and groups  
that routinely sell them versus us  
the uniters sell WE and only WE  
cause they know WE can't win without trust

Back to the root of the problem  
which is, "What is the sport that we're in",  
how do we score, what are the rules,  
what do we do to become champion

Is it touchdowns we need or home-runs  
to be fastest or sink holes in one  
to be highest or strongest or get the most goals  
to be the greatest team under the sun

Consider the sport that we're playing  
has no balls, nets or hoops to shoot into  
just the gifts that we have to share with the team  
so we leave the world better when we're through

Whatever we decide that we're playing  
we all need to play as ONE team  
unlike sports that we watch on tv  
It's not trophies that fuel up our dream

It's True Life with huge joy and challenge  
that properly invites us to rise  
to meet the choice facing all great teams:  
Walk in truth or collapse in the lies!

X

We control the narrative  
now more than it's ever been  
A habit forms in 30 days,  
each day's practice syncs it in

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So, before you say it, ask yourself,  
“Am I saying this to build him up?”  
Before you do it, self reflect,  
“Am I doing this to fill her cup?”

Say “Thank You” and really mean it  
every morning as you wake up  
Ask “What’s my purpose?”  
till you no longer have to make up  
reasons why you hate yourself.  
Then live on purpose, don’t break up  
commit to let love take us up  
to a better USA  
learning to love all of itself.

Can I count on you to practice this  
for 30 days and then  
You’ll speak love, do love, live love  
and that’s the only way we’ll win!

So since we've tried so many things  
except the habit above  
Let's use our power to unify  
and start asking "How Bout Love"

These letters were written by Jerry L. Burrell  
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or part of them, please credit Jerry L. Burrell

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