

PS ZINE

VOL. 1

FALL '22

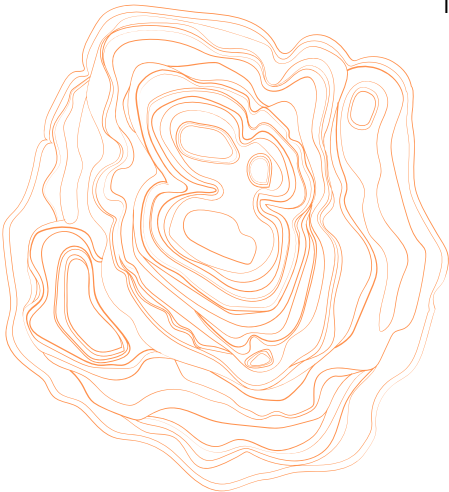


voices from  
yesteryear

Princeton University  
Project Solidarity

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Artists:  
Alexander  
Antelmo  
Carrington  
Frederick  
José  
Rickie



# About **Project Solidarity** and the **PS Zine**

Project Solidarity (PS) is a letter-writing program between Princeton students and people in solitary confinement. According to the Association of State Correctional Administrators and the Liman Center at Yale Law School, it is estimated that about 61,000 people are held in solitary cells for 22 hours or more each day (1). While the United Nations defines periods of more than "15 consecutive days" in solitary confinement as a form of torture, many incarcerated people are forced into this concrete space for months, and in some cases, years (2). Although the role of PS student writers is recognizably limited, the objective of PS is for us to be a friend to our pen pals through written correspondence.

The idea for PS Zine began in 2019 when former PS student leaders started receiving art submissions from some of their pen pals. The creation of this magazine was stalled, however, due to changing leadership and the pandemic. Regardless, and with explicit permission from our pen pals to publish, the goals for PS Zine are to highlight the talent of our pen pals and to call for the abolition of solitary confinement.

This issue features our first set of submissions. In order to credit the artists while also respecting their privacy, each piece is labeled by the artist's first name. Also, the pieces were not edited, only transcribed, to fully preserve the artist's voice.

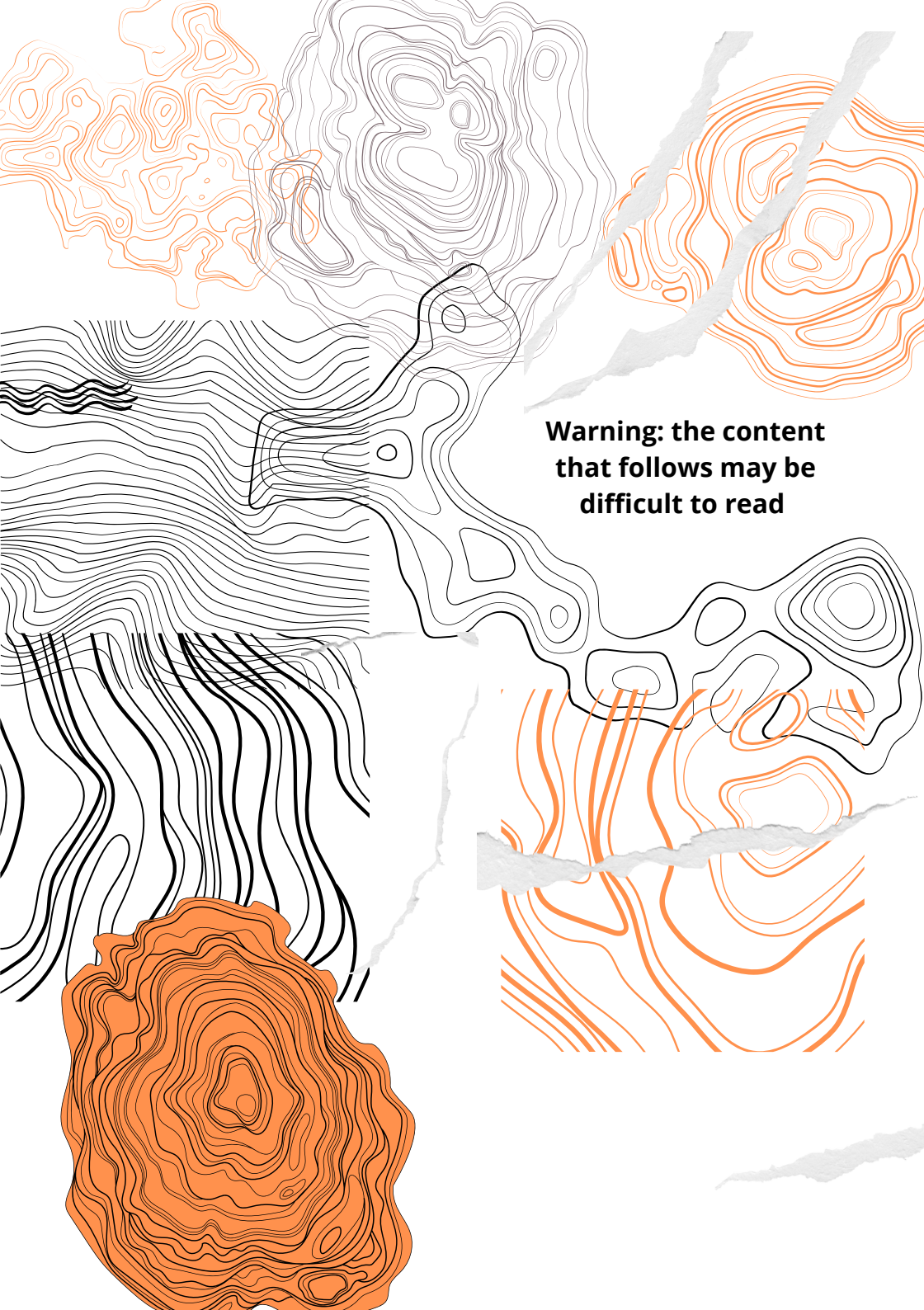
Finally, we are always looking for more student writers. If you would be willing to write a letter about once every two weeks, you can sign up to participate at [princetonspear.com](http://princetonspear.com) under "Ongoing Initiatives." We hold orientations at the start of each fall and spring semester.

(1) <https://solitarywatch.org/2019/01/04/how-many-people-are-in-solitary-today/>

(2) UN's Mandela Rules: [https://www.un.org/en/events/mandeladay/mandela\\_rules.shtml](https://www.un.org/en/events/mandeladay/mandela_rules.shtml)

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**Warning: the content  
that follows may be  
difficult to read**

# 01 | ALEXANDER

I would like to discuss the struggle that we all have with ourself. The questions of self purpose, The human conscience and do we have a creator? The question of a God or Intelligent designer was never a problem. The problem was how do I connect with my creator, and find my purpose? Me, personally, I was overwhelmed with how many religions there are out there. I didn't want my upbringing in a Christian home or me living in the Western hemisphere, determine or defect my thoughts. I wanted a clean slate to start my search for the Truth. One of the first things I learned pretty fast was is there is a lot of Information, books, biographies & etc on religion & religious figures. So I narrowed my search to Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Atheism. Now I've been in prison almost a decade, with 3 of those years in solitary confinement, in a cell 24/7, by myself. So I read and read and cross checked and listened to supporters and non-believers. What I learned was Buddha lived around 600 B.C, but his teachings and writings were not recorded until 100 A.D. Around 700 years later. I learned that Muhammad who died 632 A.D, and his biography wasn't writing until 767 A.D. which plays a big factor because with time stories or popular figures in history can be tainted by mythology or failure to pass down what exactly took place properly. And in both instances were talking about well over 100 years. Now Muslims believe that Muhammad was revealed the Qur'an by Allah in a cave, which is a powerful statement. But the problem for me was no one can verify this, no witnesses and not even a miracle, so all in all a man in a cave claiming spiritual Diety. Then came Christianity...now I wanted proof outside the Bible That Jesus walked the earth. This brought me to Josephus, a Jewish historian who's writings are highly accepted by scholars and historians world wide as accurate. Now he wrote about Rome, Greece and Jewish Tradition.

But the reason I was researching his work is because in one of his early manuscripts called "Testimonium Flavianum" he writes "about this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed on ought to all him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feat's and was a teacher of such people as accept the Truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the christ. When Pilate upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing among us, had condemned him to be crucified, those, who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. On The third day he appeared to them restored to life for the prophets of God had prophesied those and countless other marvelous things about him and the Tribe, so called Christinas after him. Still to this day has not disappeared.

Now this was a trusted historian who was alive for the Christ movement, giving us his eye witness account of what he saw & heard. Mind you Josephus was a Jew, who at the time was against all things dealing with Christ. So for Josephus to write that meant 1) Jesus was a real man 2) he performed unexplainable miracles 3) he was crucified 4) he was seen after he was put to Death. Now what then came to my mind was, the Jews believe Jesus was just a wise teacher and a rabbi, Muslims believe Jesus was only a prophet. Now could that be the answer, well I came across a book that made a powerful statement, saying there has been plenty of Rabbis and wise men and plenty of prophets but not one besides Jesus was put to death fore being a wise teacher or prophet. In a time where those people were highly respected, instead he received the worst death penalty there was, crucifixion. Let me explain what historians say Jesus endured. Before the cross, he went though Roman flogging, which is at the least 39 lashes by a braided leather whip, with metal balls in between the leather. Also, sharp bone was attached to the whip in order to cut & shred the skin severely. The whipping would be aimed at your back from the top of your shoulders to the bottom of your buttocks, ultimately sending the victim into hypovolemic shock. After this Jesus would have been nailed through his wrist (not palms) & feet.

His arms would have been stretched out of place and dislocated. All in all, He died of asphyxiation. Basically he can't breathe and his Body is in shock and his back from the whippings before he was put on the cross would have exposed his back nerves & spine to scrap against the wooden cross. It's a very painful way to die. After all this, the amazing thing is he was seen by over 500 people within the next 2 months, and with so many people who was against him, why didn't anybody say "hey that's not true" or "he didn't rise from the dead?" Instead we see a huge number of Jews and Greeks converting to Christianity. But what about the New Testament? Didn't the writers have reason to lie or maybe add a little mythical aspects to the story of Jesus or even lie. The answer is no. In the Time the gospels were wrote to Claim Christ or to attach your name to him was pure suicide back then. So with nothing to gain and everything to lose, they were Beat, Starved, and Tortured and then put to Death. Why would they lose their life for something they knew was false. If they didn't see him alive after he was put to Death, why let your family be put to death?

That was a major point that really won me over. To me there was too many facts and reliable witnesses. Now I am a Christian, I'm 26 years old I'm currently in a Texas prison in solitary confinement, so by no mean's am I a model Christian or someone who is better than anyone. And by no means am I saying the other religions I named were wrong. This was just my outcome from my Journey, and that's what's important, for us to search and explore our beliefs and see exactly what it is we are putting our faith in. For me it was Jesus and for me it would take a lot more hopeful wishing for me to be an atheist & not believe in anything, than for me to look at history & science & the present day \* all the facts I named, and not believe we have a creator.





# 02 | "EQUALS" BY ANTELMO

We all breathe, eat, shit and sleep. What's so special about you? So your skin is fair and your eyes blue, are you "superior," stronger, or smarter? Can you stop speeding bullets with your head too? Gods only creation? Or are you ignorance, fool?

All brown people are inferior or lacking that special juice... to do great, be great, right? Who the fuck lied to you, do your insecurities feed your fear and your fear your racist views? If you look back far enough our ancestors came from the same roots.

Are we not just brothers of a different color, by accepting this fact what do you lose? A false sense of pride, will your ego be bruised? Why do you so hate us who's skin is simply of a darker hue. I hate to burst your bubble but here's the truth... We are all created equal, what makes us less than or greater is what we choose to do.



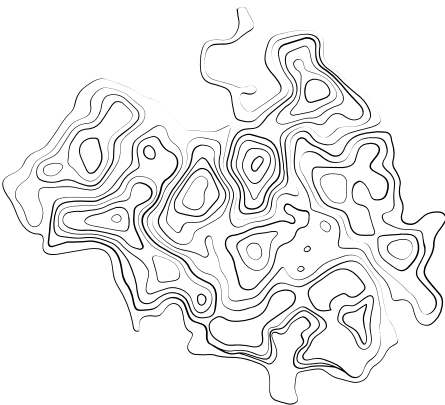
# 03 | "UNDERSTAND AND CONSIDER"

BY ANTELMO

If I can't get I, then how will you get Me? Looking for unity when US don't feel we. Respect is lacking for your stare itself intends to bleed... me dry as the desert therefore I ask, will our hearts ever meet?

We fold to the pressures, pressures and pleasures dissolve the resolve and characters, instead of men we become caracatures... stick people drawn by the devil. It's incredible how inevitable our self-destruction seems to be... at points laughable how even those with third eyes can't see.

If unity is clarity and clarity equals peace... if I knowing I, means you feeling Me. Then I becomes you and you becomes me... That means we is one and one equals peace.



# 04

## "P R E T T Y P I C T U R E"

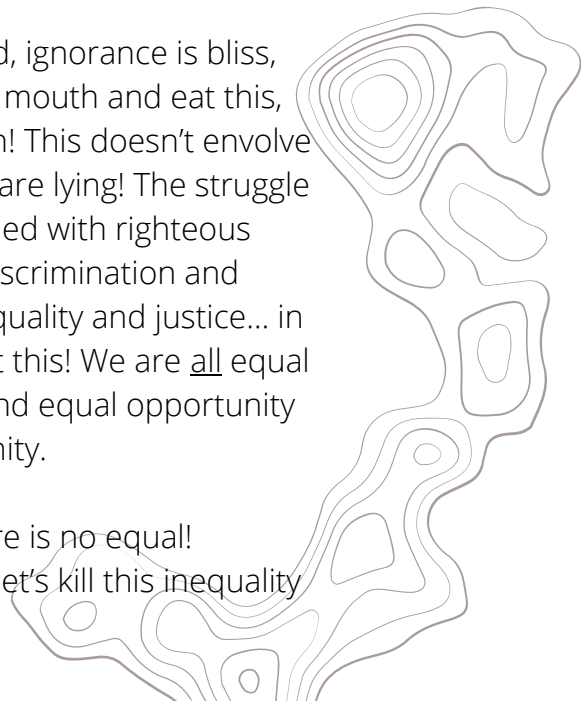
BY  
ANTELMO

Draw! While I paint this picture of struggle. Artistically inclined, overlooked as a thug, woe! Draw! And overstand this, greatness doesn't discriminate but lies within thugs too! Locking us up when instead we needed guidance and education fool! There's lost doctors, presidents, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters to incarceration. Judges seeing docket expediency instead of the person, the young men and women no longer humans instead deemed poison.

Draw! While I draw this picture, blue the skies and so are the rules, that rob life and justify with lies, faked outrage, cries to throw us away cause we aren't rich or white. Kite...I'll fly one day.

Draw! While I feed your mind, ignorance is bliss, the truth is bitter open your mouth and eat this, let me broaden your horizon! This doesn't involve you? Evolve! to yourself you are lying! The struggle is real... Draw! Eat till your filled with righteous outrage that should kill all discrimination and hate... late is the arrival of equality and justice... in God we trust, fuck that Trust this! We are all equal and deserving of freedom and equal opportunity yet it's all lost if there's no unity.

Draw! WE THE PEOPLE! There is no equal! Open your mind and heart, let's kill this inequality its evil.



# 05

"S.H.U. KILLING"  
BY ANTELMO

S.H.U. living, screams for help fall on deaf ears, it's soul killing (4). Eyes dry, hearts cold. There's no feelings. 7yrs lost counting the cracks on this stone ceiling... These four walls they keep stealing. There's no peace, there's no healing, you lose parts of your Psyche. The beast just keeps feeding. Sensory deprivation, your hopes won't leave the building.

Wretched souls not strong enough become willing. To be treated like animals so they stop eating, start kicking doors and their feces. They start singing... More savage than man, for the broken that's S.H.U living. To cope with stone coffins that keep shrinking, the few who remain whole even they have wounds that keep bleeding, their strong minds start creeping, if it won't break, cracks start leaking... It's hard to keep singing when your reality is broken souls screaming. The smell of feces, and anger or fear when you hear keys clinking.

If savagery is society's justice, then savagery it'll keep reaping. You can't rehabilitate people by on their humanity shitting. If you rob a man of hope then who's winning?

You need to start looking, start asking, why men are subjected to this S.H.U living... it's really S.H.U killing.

# 06 | "WAKE UP" BY ANTELMO

Bad news like seeing your son's shoes on the news. Then people knocking on your door to give you the blues...shot him even after his hands were up and said "don't shoot!"

When he lived no one cared now they're filling the pews. Some hotshot lawyer feigning interest for a suit. A grieving mother... there's so many she's not just part of a few.

Can you process this and chew... this food for thought and imagine it was you, your son, daughter, brother or father... what if you had to choose...which one is better off dead, one you could bare to lose?

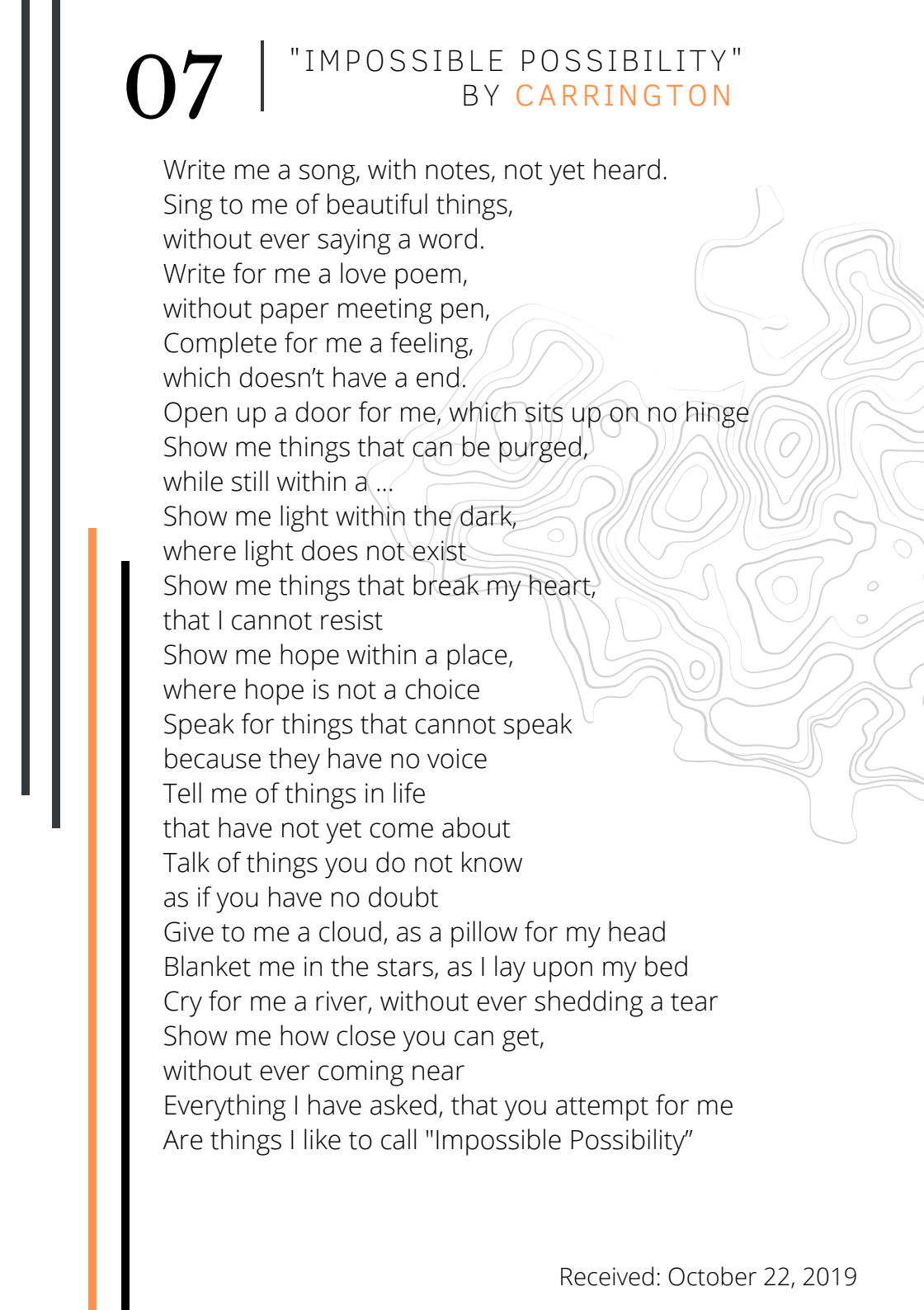
But you don't care your moral anger's on snooze, as long as you're winning, you don't see the abused. And when you notice, you're simply amused, it's some "political conspiracy" not a life lost but a ruze.

This is not simple words but spoken truth, oppression is ours and that includes you. Open your eyes, and soon... because yea today your winning...but you could be the next to lose.

# 07

## "IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBILITY"

BY CARRINGTON



Write me a song, with notes, not yet heard.  
Sing to me of beautiful things,  
without ever saying a word.  
Write for me a love poem,  
without paper meeting pen,  
Complete for me a feeling,  
which doesn't have an end.  
Open up a door for me, which sits up on no hinge  
Show me things that can be purged,  
while still within a ...  
Show me light within the dark,  
where light does not exist  
Show me things that break my heart,  
that I cannot resist  
Show me hope within a place,  
where hope is not a choice  
Speak for things that cannot speak  
because they have no voice  
Tell me of things in life  
that have not yet come about  
Talk of things you do not know  
as if you have no doubt  
Give to me a cloud, as a pillow for my head  
Blanket me in the stars, as I lay upon my bed  
Cry for me a river, without ever shedding a tear  
Show me how close you can get,  
without ever coming near  
Everything I have asked, that you attempt for me  
Are things I like to call "Impossible Possibility"

Received: October 22, 2019

# 08

"SHOW" BY CARRINGTON

Show me how to love again,  
cause pain has bruised my heart  
Teach me how to trust again, show me where to start  
My judgement and thoughts on love, I no longer trust  
Because everything I thought was love  
turned out to be only lust.  
Waking up to a sunrise, but finding is the moon  
Shadows overcast the day, filling it with gloom  
Every invitation, turned out to be a snare  
Thrust within a situation, totally void of care  
Misused and mistreated by every feeling inside  
Emotions and desire, molested and tossed aside  
How do you recover and start to mend the hurt  
When you've given everything you have inside and  
received the treatment of dirt,  
How do you mend a heart that's been shattered  
in a million pieces.  
Regardless of what you try to do,  
the pain just never ceases.  
Beaten and battered beyond anything you've known  
The other side of love is what you've now been shown  
So take this as a lesson, of the worst that life got.  
And love should be easy to find,  
because you know all that is not.

# 09

## "MY FIRST ENTRY" BY FREDERICK

Time...time is a constant. This is an undisputable fact no one can argue without appearing foolish.

History has taught many lessons to those who seek its counsel. Understanding is achieved by communication, and it is our common interests that establish a foundation to forge a mutually beneficial goal.

The turmoil in the Middle East over the ownership of holy land, whereupon the rock of Abraham is seated, has raged for almost a millennium.

This particular holy land is marked by the god of Abraham, the father of all three (3) nations, Hebrews, Muslims, Christians, and should be shared, irrespective of its location. In truth, all humans are mere tenants upon this earth, and it is our children whom inherit the folly committed by prior generations.



# 10 | JOSÉ

This follow-up letter is to encourage you in your work that you started on or about March, 2019 at Princeton to honor and spread the voice(s) of “us,” the incarcerated person(s), which most of our American criminal justice political system has locked-up and thrown away the key(s) to our freedom or refuse to give us, the prisoner(s), a good chance at rehabilitation programs to assist in our higher educational needs. So we can show society that every human being does make mistakes, and can be a productive person upon release from the gulags of American society. Emancipation of “us,” the actual innocent prisoners, inside these wicked evil political gulags are NOT given any local or national media coverages via exclusive media interviews in order to expose how the rich and well-connected very upperclass of American society (secret societies) created all of the criminal justice system to literally enslave people of color that are impoverished to work all plantations for profit, as involuntary servitude prisoners, especially here at the Commonwealth of Texas and throughout the entire Southern Commonwealths of America. As you, my new friends at Princeton Project Solidarity already know, the wicked evil history of all the U.S.A., from the inception of illegal immigrant invasions from the European countries (around 1492 A.D. on forward) to these Native American Indian country (Indigenous First Nations) is the prime example of “racial” disparities/discrimination, and full scaled bigotry due to human beings being taught by either parents or educational institutions of higher learning that “brain wash” young children's innocent minds to believe what your teacher(s) tell you because they have a degree in education and do NOT dare question any teacher/professor in public about the true, correct,

Received: September 26, 2019


and complete historical facts or you will be “a rebellious liar that refuses to be taught knowledge” by your elders who know much better than you, child! (If you want to pass this class, kiss my ass, go with the flow, Joe, and act like you’re a shmock\*. :) )

The truth is that “all anchor babies” of the illegal immigrants in conjunction with their ancestors who came in wooden ships from all over Europe countries are living (and have been living) on stolen occupied indigenous land from sea to shining sea, (Atlantic to Pacific Oceans and the Gulf of Mexico) but white English speaking nationals refuse to admit these truths, and openly apologize to all of “us,” the First Indigenous Nations. Much less give or make any reparations and compensations (or pay “us” the back drafted rent monies they actually owe for over 400 to 450 years). “In the best interest of true justice.” So, whensoever I hear the A.M. radio news channels concerning “the invasion of illegal immigrants coming into America” from Mexico, Central America, South America, Philippines, African countries, and the Middle East countries by the thousands in great droves, I just laugh and say, “Now do you English speaking people know exactly how ‘we,’ the American Indians feel when your people did the same-exact shit way-back-in the day?”

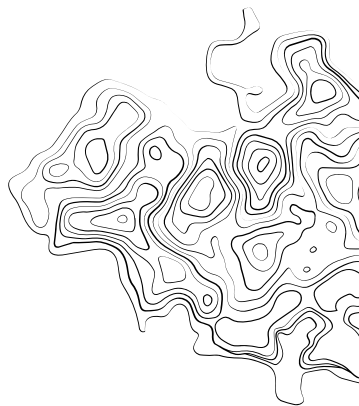
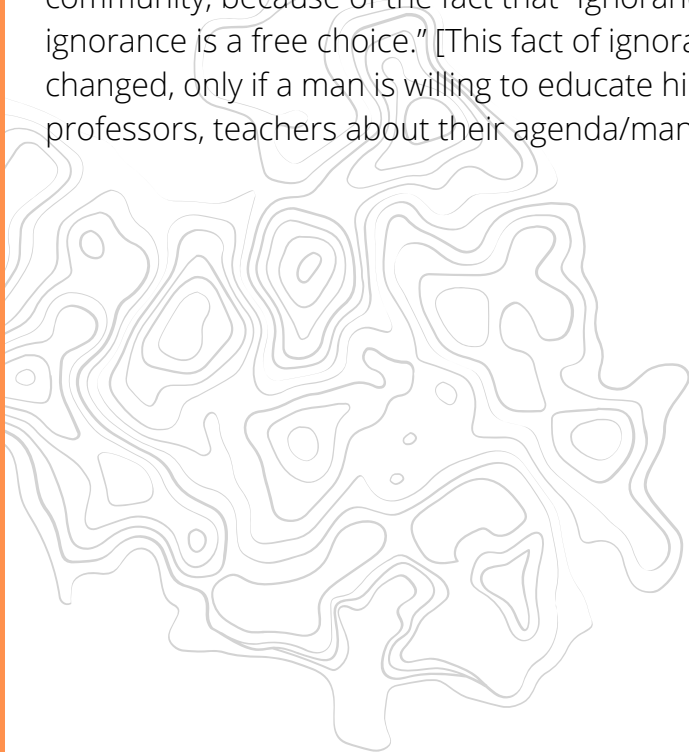
Really my friends, I do not discriminate or practise any racial disparities against “any human being(s)” because my grandparents and my parents did not teach me, your Native-American Indian brother, such fucked-up rhetoric, and I was not raised to do so, for sole purpose(s) that:

- 1) The Almighty Creator created all men in His image, according to His likeness. (Not mine, not ours).
- 2) The Almighty Creator placed different colours upon all men, to distinguish tribal ethnicities.
- 3) The Almighty Creator placed all tribes in His Earth, to work all of the different parts of His Earth, where all men were blessed with their own inheritance to pass down to all their offspring, inside each tribal home/land, to help unwelcomed invasion(s) from all of the other tribes.
- 4) The Almighty Creator placed His sacred breath of Life, and His sacred blood into all men, and no person has any right to take these blessed sacred gifts away from any man.
- 5) The Almighty Creator endowed unalienable rights unto all men, and no person has been given the right to steal these known rights.
- 6) The Almighty Creator is the most high judge of His good creation, and only His righteousness and justice shall be practised by all men. Because of His sacredness and love for all of His blessed creation on Earth.
- 7) The Almighty Creator is the only one who could bestow physical material tangible and spiritual prosperity in all good things, upon any man that willingly shares these prosperities with the stranger, orphans, widows and impoverished men as an act of philanthropy, in the time of any man's need to show peace, love, and goodwill toward all of His creation of men created in His image, according to His likeness. So be it.

My friends, these are the seven (7) Oral Constitutional-Laws I was taught and raised to remember and practise to the best of my recollection and ability. "As a Native-American Indian way of life."



[Who has been blessed with the title of Caretaker of Mother Earth, and my Brother's Keeper.] Therefore, I encourage you to move forward and finish what you started. I really appreciate your courage, passion, and solidarity movement, just to help educate other human beings that are ignorant or misinformed in a wider community, because of the fact that "Ignorance is Bliss, and ignorance is a free choice." [This fact of ignorance could be changed, only if a man is willing to educate himself and question all professors, teachers about their agenda/manifesto.]



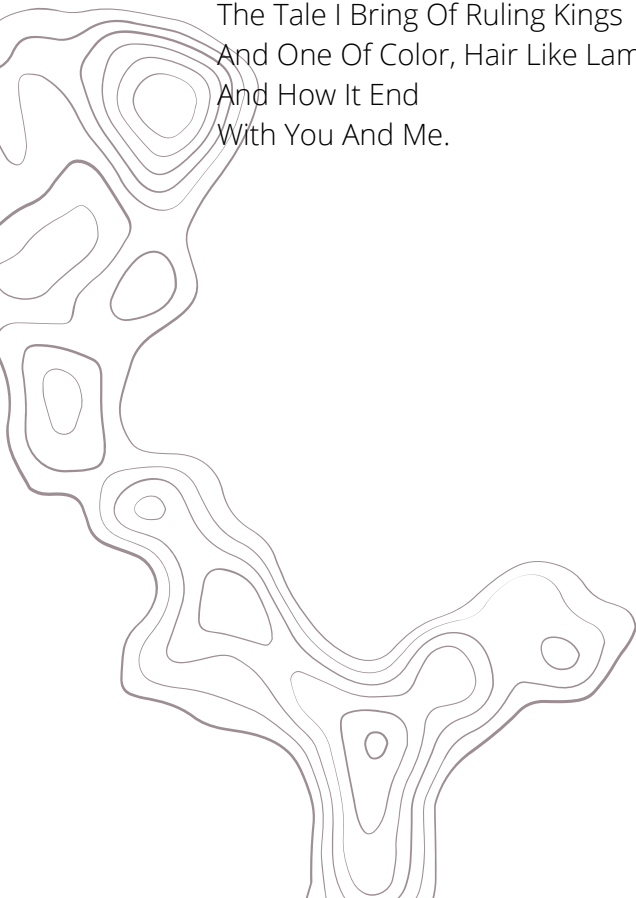
# 11

## "RULING KING'S & ONE WITH DARK SKIN/HAIR LIKE LAMB" BY RICKIE

Ever Since The Dawn Of Man  
Man Been Power Driven  
King's Concord Villages  
Subdued Families And Build Their Kingdoms  
With Slave Trade, They Were Brilliant  
Made Millions Off Of Humans  
Forced Them In-To Arenas  
To Engage In Battle For Entertainment  
Women Made To Lay, With Royal Guest  
With-Out No Pay, And Far As Kids  
Boys Were Sent Off In Fields, To Learn Of Trades  
From Welders To Carpenters To Brick-Masons  
To Name a Few Young Girls Learn How To  
Cook, Clean, And Sew, like They Mothers Do  
And For Those Out-Side The Kingdoms  
Paid Taxes To Live In Peace, Who Lived As Farmers  
Selling Crops, Given (85%) Of To Their Kings  
Back Then It Was Of Law, To Rule Ones  
And Treat Them Harsh, After All  
King's In Charge, And Who Dares To Tell Them  
To Knock It Off  
Along Came A Man, With Dark-Skin  
The Hair of Land, Whom Spoke In Parables,  
Perform Miracles, Kings, Caught Wind  
And Were Like Damn, We've Got's to Kill Him,  
Take Him Out, For He Speak What We Not Know  
If We Don't We'll Lose All Power  
Over Ones and Our Homes.  
They Formed a Plot In To A Lie,  
When All He Done Was Spoke of Peace  
Said Love Thy Neighbor,

Father Says that we are of What We Eat  
Now Look at Us Today, Being Govern By These States  
Force to Eat, Meat of Swine, As They Feast on Land And Steak  
Still Today, We're Treat As Slaves  
Passed Around, To Prison Camp's  
For Laws They May, On Which we Break  
They Breaks Themselves, Hell, Just The Same  
Those Ways of Living, Still Be the Same  
Much Hasn't Change, Since Them Days  
For They Still Engage, In Human Trade  
Said it is Of Law, Of Your Belief, Don't You Believe  
Close Your Business, Pay a Fine, or Engage. How They Believe  
How Can This Land Be of Free?  
If Being Fire For How You Speak  
On How You Think Life Should Be  
Opposite of Ruling King's  
Didn't One of Color, Hair Like Lamb, Give US Warnings,  
For His 2nd Coming  
All Kings Whom Rule, Shall Submit  
And Those Whom Heed, Shall Stand as Soldiers  
And All Slaves Shall Be Freed  
And Eat That of Good Meat  
Praise And Sing  
His  
Holy Name  
The Lord Of Lords And King of Kings  
Break Bread and Make Peace  
Stop the Hate For Which He Sees  
He Knows That We Be Lost  
Though Having Eyes, Which Clearly Sees  
In The Day I'm Freed, I Wanna Be  
In 7th Heaven With Family, Soul at Peace  
And Not At Worry, Of Being Oppose By Riling Kings

With Him Of Color, Hair Like Land,  
And Thy Father, With You And Me  
Far Away From Ruling Kings  
Whom Burns Eternal Refuse To See  
There Is Nothin New Under The Sun  
Fact Be History Repeats  
Like Waters Flow Out From Oceans  
In To Rivers, Creeks, and Streams  
It Must Return To Which It Came  
To Quench The Thirst, Of The Sea,  
We Be Ken, One-Blood, Descendant's  
From "Adam, And Eve"  
Seek And You Shall Find  
The Tale I Bring Of Ruling Kings  
And One Of Color, Hair Like Lamb  
And How It End  
With You And Me.





## Your Next Steps

There are multiple avenues through which you can become involved with efforts to abolish solitary confinement. Voice of Witness posted a 10-step guide on how to do get involved, with modified versions of some of the steps printed here (5):

- **Write for PS** and be a friend to a pen pal in solitary confinement
- Follow and get involved with national campaigns to abolish solitary confinement, such as Unlock the Box and the ACLU's Stop Solitary Campaign
- Write to locally elected officials to ask what they plan to do to abolish solitary confinement
- Write to the governor to demand that they abolish solitary confinement
- Read and support investigative and research journals that focus on solitary confinement, including Solitary Watch and the Vera Institute of Justice



