

Isa 59: Waiting for Justice



Justice



Justice

What's been done in the name of Jesus?
What's been done in the name of Buddha?
What's been done in the name of Islam?
What's been done in the name of man?
What's been done in the name of liberation?
And in the name of civilization?
And in the name of race?
And in the name of peace?

Everybody
Loves to see
Justice done
On somebody else

Can you tell me how much bleeding
It takes to fill a word with meaning?
And how much, how much death
It takes to give a slogan breath?
And how much, how much, how much flame

Gives light to a name
For the hollow darkness
In which nations dress?

Everybody
Loves to see
Justice done
On somebody else

Everybody's seen the things they've seen
We all have to live with what we've been
When they say charity begins at home
They're not just talking about a toilet and a telephone
Got to search the silence of the soul's wild places
For a voice that can cross the spaces
These definitions that we love create
These names for heaven, hero, tribe and state

Everybody
Loves to see
Justice done
On somebody else

Flaming Rebuke

See, the Lord's hand is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.

2 Rather, your iniquities have been barriers
between you and your God
and your sins have hidden his face from you
so that he does not hear.

...your lips have spoken lies,
your tongue mutters wickedness.

4 No one brings suit justly,
no one goes to law honestly;
they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies,
conceiving mischief and begetting iniquity.
they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies,
conceiving mischief and begetting iniquity.

5 They hatch adders' eggs,
and weave the spider's web;
whoever eats their eggs dies,

and the crushed egg hatches out a viper.

6 Their webs cannot serve as clothing;
they cannot cover themselves with what they
make.

Their works are works of iniquity,
and deeds of violence are in their hands.

7 Their feet run to evil,
and they rush to shed innocent blood;
their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity,
desolation and destruction are in their
highways.

8 The way of peace they do not know,
and there is no justice in their paths.
Their roads they have made crooked;
no one who walks in them knows peace.

Lament

Therefore justice is far from us,
and righteousness does not reach us;
**we wait for light, and lo! there is darkness;
and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.**

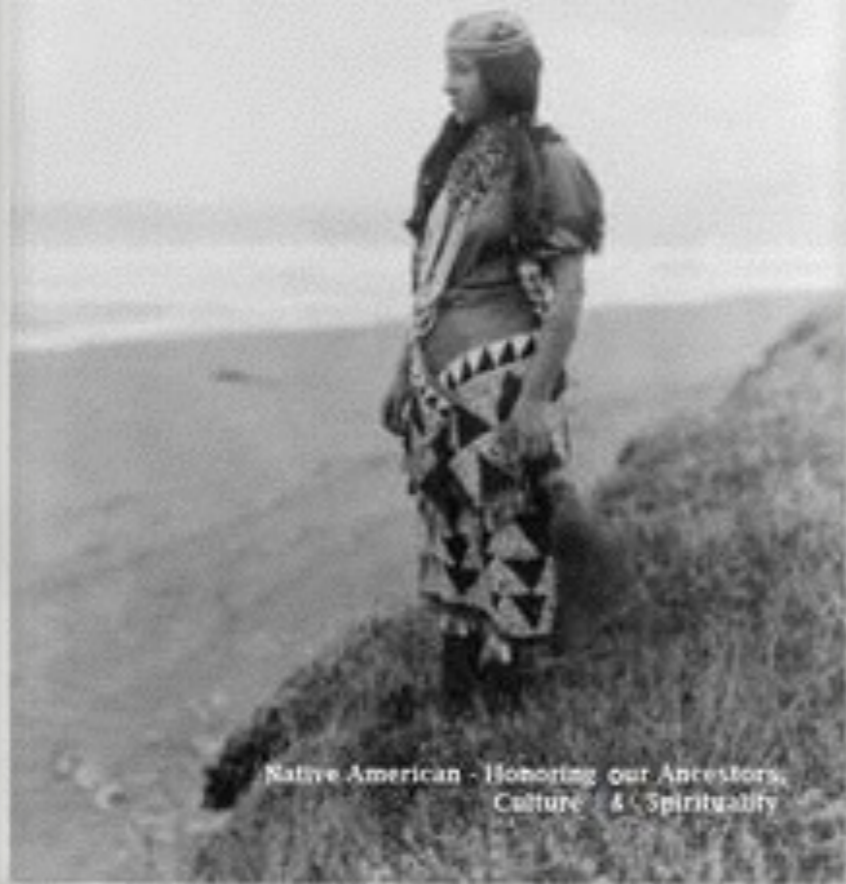
10 We grope like the blind along a wall,
groping like those who have no eyes;
we stumble at noon as in the twilight,
among the vigorous as though we were dead.

11 We all growl like bears;
like doves we moan mournfully.
We wait for justice, but there is none;
for salvation, but it is far from us.



Confession

**To remember who you are,
you need to forget who they
told you to be.**



For our transgressions before you are many,
and our sins testify against us.

Our transgressions indeed are with us,
and we know our iniquities:

13 transgressing, and denying the Lord,
and turning away from following our God,
talking oppression and revolt,
conceiving lying words and uttering them from the heart.

14 **Justice is turned back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
for truth stumbles in the public square,
and uprightness cannot enter.**

15 Truth is lacking,
and whoever turns from evil is despoiled.

God Acts

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him
that there was no justice.

16 He saw that there was no one,
and **was appalled that there was no one to intervene;**
so his own arm brought him victory,
and his righteousness upheld him.

17 He put on righteousness like a breastplate,
and a helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on garments of vengeance for clothing,
and **wrapped himself in fury as in a mantle.**

18 According to their deeds, so will he repay;
wrath to his adversaries, requital to his enemies;
to the coastlands he will render requital.

19 So those in the west shall fear the name of the Lord,
and those in the east, his glory;

**for he will come like a pent-up stream
that the wind of the Lord drives on.**

**“And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares
the Lord.**



Flaming Rebuke

When the school is on the reserve, the child lives with its parents, who are savages and though he may learn to read and write, his habits and training mode of thought are Indian. He is simply a savage who can learn to read and write. It has been strongly impressed upon myself, as head of the Department, that Indian children should be withdrawn as much as possible from the parental influence, and the only way to do that would be to put them in central training industrial schools where they will acquire the habits and modes of thought of white men.

John A MacDonald 1879

Lament

Residential schools systematically undermined Indigenous, First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures across Canada and disrupted families for generations, severing the ties through which Indigenous culture is taught and sustained, and contributing to a general loss of language and culture. Because they were removed from their families, many students grew up without experiencing a nurturing family life and without the knowledge and skills to raise their own families. The devastating effects of the residential schools are far-reaching and continue to have a significant impact on Indigenous communities. The residential school system is widely considered a form of genocide because of the purposeful attempt from the government and church to eradicate all aspects of Indigenous cultures and lifeworlds.



Confession/Solidarity

- Constantine - expand, exploit, own the world
- Doctrine of Discovery - 1493 - this land is ours
- Legacy of Denial
- Guilty of not Listening

Reconciliation Prayers



Violence and torture on this scale reminds me of reporting on life in Cambodia under Pol Pot. It has all the elements of the worst things I've seen anywhere – hunger, displacement, kidnapping, rape, disappearance, unmarked graves, genocide.

It is time for Canada to remove its halo and look in the mirror. It can no longer fall to the survivors of Canada's genocide to educate us, to prove they suffered. If there is to be true reconciliation in Canada, these stories must be carried by all of us.

The Kamloops unmarked graves make it impossible to say that we did not know.

Tara Sutton - Canada has lost its halo- we must confront our indigenous genocide.

Addendum

21 “And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring,” says the Lord, “from this time forth and forevermore.”

