



WE ARE ALL GOD'S POEMS

— JOSÉ HERNANDEZ

This is supposed to be the land of the free
Where people reach out with helping hands,
And see others around
Able to find what they seek,
Caricua, black horse, subway, Caracas,

In a wonderful world full of deceit
That promises all but what they want to be,
White rice, black beans, simple metal spoon, my father's gray teeth.
A singer, a doctor, an artist or a baker, indeed

This is supposed to be the land of the brave,
A Spokane, a farmer, a soldier, a nurse,
My mother's work pants, dark brown, her thick bright smile, "Hello,
my son!"
One in search of a new way because what we have
We all know to be systemic. Unfair. Benefitting just one group on
earth.

Men, women, rich, poor, black, white,
Slim build, broken, my brother Jackson's hungry cheek bones, his
open heart,
People everywhere of every creed and domain



Looking to solve this thorn and hollow

Shock. Dismay. Still too many want to remain the same.
Maybe MLK who gives hope, or Desmond Tutu's Commission,
Maybe Mother Theresa's work or maybe Rosa Park's tired feet,
Maybe none of us really know sacrificial love such as Jesus taught.
That freedom is precious and sweet and giving justice a look
Can bring us home to the doorway I walked through as a boy
 fighting for life,
My shorts with holes in the pockets, my shirt with three buttons
 instead of six,
My silk brown mouth without water, my stomach wondering where
 to find a solution for this world.

Influence: After living for many years in this nation of immigrants plagued by a dark cloud of racism and inequality but inspired by those who in my understanding have continued the work of Jesucristo to free the people, I've been moved by the courage and love of many people who refuse to stay silent in the midst of serious attacks to freedom and true democracy, the very foundation of many nations.

José Hernandez was born and raised in Caracas Venezuela and has lived in the United States since 1987. He received a Master of Science and a PhD in Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University. An avid reader of leadership, theology and social issues, José is a quiet activist in conversations over racial injustice and immigration policies related to the developing world. He is the fitness director at Gonzaga University and an independent sports psychology consultant.