

It Just Is (*Yiqiniso*) by Antonio J. García

I.

Denying a meal at the TABLE with those who are Able
To WINE and DINE all the TIME is a CRIME.
But that wasn't always the CASE:
The human RACE had put a SIGN on your FACE,
Attempting to disGRACE by PLAcIng
DiVISIons on the VISIons of PEOPle who were in fact Equal.

Someone had to STEP up, FED up, protesting without LETup.
Mandela, KING, all who were THINKing the same THING:
“Let freedom RING; let equality take WING amid the
Skies of a new NATION, a COMBination of people of
All COLors respecting the rights of OTHers.”

It's an act of CONscience, civil disoBEdience.
CHILDren teaching PARents teaching CHILdren—
BUILding, OFTen, the NOTion that brings eMOtion to a GLObal comMOtion:
That's SOcial JUSTice —it JUST IS.

II.

You could SAY that GAYS aren't people, anyWAYS,
Not deserving the CHANCE to find roMANCE with
The person they DANCE with.
You could TRY to PLY me with STORies of MORes
That fit YOUR view but not MINE: NOT FINE!
More countries and STATES are now in the deBATE:
They legisLATE and shift the Teutonic PLATES
Of PRECedent and PRESident.
The SUFFrage of gay MARRiage is now legal CARRiage
Into a new era of eQUALity for l-g-B-t.
We can reLATE that rights DO have WEIGHT:
That's SOcial JUSTice —it JUST IS.

III.

Taking a BEAtIng for what you're beLIEVing
Is ONE way to bring FORTH a new “true NORTH” of THINKing:
Not hesiTating to STATE your PLATE of GRIEvances
To CITizens who fill their mental BINS with prejudicial SINS.
We've all HEARD it; we've all THOUGHT it;
We've all SEEN it; WE'VE ALL LIVED IT!
NOW'S the time to rise above the WORST in us,
Bring about the CHANGE in us, expand to a new RANGE in us of
COgnizance, PENitance, and a STANCE with no reLUCtance

To do the right THING.
Let EVERY voice SING: “Equal opportunity BRINGS a nation RIsing.”
ACTion SEALS the way we FEEL:
That’s Social JUSTice—it JUST IS.

IV.
Young women BANNED from eduCAtion on the NOTion
That to opPRESS girls in DRESS allows men to
SuPRESS the will of FEmales throughout a NAtion.
An aBOMiNAtion!
E-mails, texts, and social media spread the NEWS;
A PULtizer Prize FUELS the DRIVE to get that GENder
Into SCHOOlS to give them the TOOLS to
Out-think those FOOLS and make a better LIFE
For girls, families, and WIVES.

Who thought it was MANly to look DOWN on
A person in a GOWN?
To deny knowledge to half your TOWN?
It’s a PITy in any CITY to keep women from being
HIGH-schooled or college-BOUND!
The NOTion that brings eMOtion to a GLObal comMOtion:
That’s Social JUSTice—it JUST IS.

V.
Whether RICHmond, DURban, PAKistan, EAStern, WEStern, RURal, or URban,
We’ve seen the FACE of disGRACE in the matters of GENder, CULTure, reLIGion, and
RACE.
It’s a PLIGHT that we must continue to FIGHT with ALL our MIGHT
To upRIGHT these WRONGS with SONGS, marches, and LAWS for the CAUSE.
We must rePEAL the old DEALS and WHEEL in a new FEELing of HEALing—
“Make It REAL” for all NEEDing SEAting at the next FEEDing.

Those who have FOUGHT the DROUGHT of productive THOUGHT in the past
Knew that change could be GLAcial, its PACE so slow that AGE
Could overTAKE them before they might
WITness the climb of forGIVENess aMONG us.
But HERE, we can CRUSH this; we can “Show The LOVE” and
TRUST that this future is OURS to take.

So at u-k-zed-N, this word we’ll SPREAD on
Back to YOU at v-c-U.
It’s a CIRcle that deSERVES to be DRAWN,
A SUNrise that BRINGS on the DAWN.
ACTion SEALS the way we FEEL:
That’s Social JUSTice—it JUST IS.

VI.

When we TRY to hear the CRY of those who DIE for their causes, I WONder:

“Who’ll MAKE the THUNder, CAUSE the LIGHTning,

Turn the DARKness into BRIGHT’ning in the FUture?”

Don’t YOU CARE enough to join us?

Won’t YOU DARE, enough, to join us?

UkWENZA kuVEza ukuthi siZIZwa KANjani:

[Doing shows how we feel:]

UkuLUNga KomPHAkathi—YiqiNIso.

[Justice of the People—It is the truth.]

There is no BASis for a CASE in which

Any one FACE or set of d-n-A’S is

InFERior or in last PLACE to some OTHER, BROTher!

The NOtion that brings eMOtion to a GLObal comMOtion:

That’s SOcial JUSTice—IT JUST IS.

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