



**IN DISSENT, DEFIANCE AND RESISTANCE:  
REFUSING TO CONCEDE TO ELECTED EVIL**

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**DR. MAULANA KARENGA**

**E**VEN IF IT IS ELECTED, ANOINTED AND propped up on a presidential pedestal, evil is not acceptable, wrong is not made right, and mendacity, meanness and injustice cannot be normalized in any system of morality worthy of its name. We cannot in good faith confuse political approval of who or what is currently popular with enduring moral good for all. Nor can we sanction a social and political process which calls for, cultivates or provokes hatred, hostility and aggression against people because of their difference, vulnerability and variedness. *And we cannot go along with the tyranny of a majority in numbers or in electoral votes and turn a deaf ear to truth or a blind eye to injustice because of official or unofficial calls for compliance, calm or giving election-sanctioned evil a chance to prove itself.*

Thus, we must dissent against such a governmental process and social practice, dare to defy the odds and wage righteous and relentless resistance against all forms of evil, injustice and oppression, regardless. And we must do this in spite of official and unofficial appeals to a “patriotism” and parallel deceptive and sedative “morality” that calls for our forgetfulness and forgiveness for injury, injustice and oppression, even before they are ended, corrected or even seriously considered. Indeed, we must not agree to our self-effacement and the sacrifice of our rights and lives. In a word, *we cannot and will not concede, cooperate and collaborate in our own oppression.*

There is so much misinformation and mystification that surround the election of Donald Trump and of course, the first and foremost problem is the inability and/or unwillingness to understand and engage Trump as the monster side of America. It is difficult to admit that it is a side that appeals to a large and decisive number of White Americans who embrace his psychology and agenda of domi-

nation, deprivation and degradation of vulnerable others. It is not just rural and rustbelt people, angry and anxious about real and imagined issues, but also suburban and college-educated, women as well as men, religious claiming and non-believers that see in Trump a “savior” and sanction of their interests and ideas. And lurking in more places than they would like to admit or acknowledge is the race and racism question and problem; a question that must be raised and answered, a problem that must be engaged and solved, especially by the people who created and sustained it.

But they will not do it because they wake up one morning with reformed hearts and minds or come to an enlightened conclusion at a hearing, hideaway, bar, ball game or breakfast table. They will change because we struggle, because the injured and oppressed dissent, defy and resist, build coalitions and alliances and with other oppressed and progressive peoples and persons, imagine and dare to bring into being a new society, world and way of being human, of making history and expanding the horizon of good and possibility for everyone. There is in America so much illusion and lying offered to explain and excuse a myriad of things to keep up appearances, to hide naked truths and to close the hearts and minds of both the masses and would-be “nobles”. And almost everywhere we turn or talk, there is the issue of race and racism, which as I’ve said elsewhere, is not simply the elephant in the room, but often the room itself, and this in no way is to dismiss the importance of gender and class in the practice of oppression.

We are told that Trump won because he cultivated those neglected, in pain and anxious and that wins them and him some recognition and respect. But we and other peoples of color have been neglected, suffer and are constantly on edge, wondering what hammer, evil hand or heavy weight will fall next. And there are no media pundits, pollsters or born-again

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politicians talking about how wrong they were or still are in treating us in such immoral, unjust and injurious ways. In a word, we are not granted even similar recognition or respect, no matter how great our oppression or how gracious, forgiving and forgetful many of us declare ourselves and strive to be. Also, even though Black people voted in greater percentages for the liberal or neo-liberal candidate than did White men and women, college-educated and not, suburbanites, Catholics, Jews, Protestants, Evangelicals, and even youth, we are not given credit, but are blamed for others' failures.

Indeed, they are not talking about vicious and widespread suppression of our voting in numerous states, emboldened by the gutting of the Voting Rights Act, and our defiant determination to vote regardless. Instead, they pay homage to those who initiated and collaborated in that process and practice of suppression in numerous ways. And we are called on by corporate media and their hirelings and handmaidens to praise the process, welcome the elected and appointed violators and accept the injury and attacks on us, other peoples of colors, Muslims, immigrants and others vulnerable in the spirit of some specious thing called "healing". And we are not to question our constant need to "heal" from underserved injuries, injustice and oppression in a system that prides itself on claims of freedom, justice and equality for all. It might frighten some and shock others, but it's time to reject conversations on "healing" and begin to discuss serious and sustained ways of how to *stop the heavy hurt so the healing won't be necessary*.

For us, it has always been about more than the elections, the changing of officeholders, the oath-takers who guard the established order and their wealth and power and leave others to forge, fend and fight for them-

selves and for whatever is left over or on loan for the common good. For many, the struggle begins and ends with the election cycle, with announcement of candidates' intentions to run, and ends with the declaring of a winner among them. But for us, the struggle began in this country on our forced arrival here and there has not been a day, night, week, month, year, decade or century we, as a people have not been on the battle line. For as Malcom reminds us, "this country is a battle line for all of us". It's been a long struggle to break the chains of enslavement, break the back of racism and to take the rope, bludgeon and the enabling law from the lyncher and the badge, gun, legal cover and social sanction from abusive and killer police. And it's been about freedom of our people from domination, deprivation and degradation and about expanding the realm of freedom, justice and social good for everyone and elections are only one battlefront on which we fight.

**S**o no one can sanely or seriously expect us to whistle Dixie, dance in joy, sing anthems or accept conditions that hide, downplay or overlook our suffering, poverty, and oppression in the midst of the wealth, power and elevated status of others. We understand Langston Hughes' poem and appeal "I Sing America, Too", but before we sing it, we need to radically reconstruct it, so that it's worthy of the high claims it makes, and it resembles in meaningful and measureable ways the new evolved ideal of America without White supremacy in its raw, retouched or revised forms. So, after the initial shock, we must face the fact that there is still work to be done, struggles to be waged and won, and a new world to be built on the ashes of injustice and oppression and all things negative to the well-being of that world and all in it.

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