

## ALL DREAMS MATTER

In a dream I envisioned all of the "protestors" dropping their banners, joining hands, making an agreement to meet every evening for as long as necessary to bring about the changes that would ensure the meaning of the lives that matter.

Imagine what could happen if those thousands of people gathered in a neighborhood, walked through the streets and playgrounds picking up the drug paraphernalia that endangers their children; sat on the park benches as children played of a summer evening; stood as one in the face of the drug dealers.

Imagine what could happen if the preachers stopped preaching and started acting; politicians stopped pontificating, showed up when the camera crews left.

Imagine what could happen if the protestors stopped shouting and started talking to each other, listening to each other, sat down with each other to share a cup of coffee, a sunset, an evening without fear.

All lives matter.....to someone....Every death is a scar upon humanity. Every tear an acid pain etched into a heart, every night an endless darkness, every sunrise an emptiness.

I dream dreams too long dreamt, too long unfulfilled.

*I close my eyes in silent protest of shattered dreams hoping that somehow we can piece the dreams together because all dreams matter.*

## We Are Brothers

Don't look at me

As though I am an alien or a stranger,

Don't let the dagger of antipathy

Fly out of your eyes.

I am your neighbor.

Don't call me a foe, an antagonist or a rival,

Don't roll up your mistrustful sleeves for a fight.

I am your friend.

Don't hold this murderous weapon in your kind hand,

Don't deny me the right to work, to eat, or to live.

I am your brother.

If destiny willed me to be born

On this side of the frontier line,

If my parents wished me

To wear these clothes

And taught me their own dances,



Do we have to be adversaries?

If fate desired me to speak  
This tongue foreign to you  
And our skins' color to differ,  
Do we have to be competitors?

If necessity decided for us  
To live in this country,  
In the North, South, East, or West,  
Do we have to be opponents?

## **The Stars and Stripes**

The Stars and Stripes our nation's Flag  
Represents "for which it stands"  
Not for the issues facing us  
Here and in foreign lands

Represents not what our country is  
But what it ought to be  
A shining light for all the world  
From sea to shining sea

Through many battles overhead  
Flew the red, the white, the blue  
Many died respecting it  
You should respect it too

Not a soap box on the ground  
But in the wind to freely wave  
How some are using it today  
Has founders turning in their graves

If you can't give it honor  
Maybe you should leave this land  
Don't sit stupidly in protest  
When it's honored by the band

Stand and place your hand on heart  
Sing the anthem if you will  
Leave this country, if you can't do that  
You have no respect, I've had my fill