

Intent of RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is a 26 page, 4,000 word poem that reconciles the moral decay of our torturing prisoners at Abu Ghraib in 2003-04 with the moral foundation of our country: truth and justice, with liberty and freedom for all. Reconciliation is made manifest through the efficacy of love.

Incidents of torture are time stamped, but have timeless impact. Time present and time past is contained within train travel, where the passengers experience a different concept of time relative to those activities outside of the train. So one can talk about the varied experiences of time by living with it, without talking about it. Distinct incidents reverberate.

The sanctioned purpose of torture is to reveal information through a process of interrogation, so the invisible listener is party to an interrogation of a former young Military Police Reservist by a younger traveller on the Acela Express as it travels from Union Station in DC to Back Bay Station in Boston.

A further sanctioned purpose of the interrogation of prisoners (many of whom were young) at Abu Ghraib was to secure information to preserve a "Way of Life". Various Ways of Life may be examined during a transit, both the insulated way aboard the Acela Express, and the various Ways that are to be observed by the seated passengers.

The railroad itself has wrought changes upon the environment, and those changes have changed over time, those changes are brought in.

Because time past enables us to gain a perspective of our actions, Civil War monuments provide gateways to our moral sense. The Grand Inquisitor, who was revealed during our Civil War period, espoused the necessities of materialism over the vitality of idealism.

Because the dynamic of sanctioned torture is activated by old men, often on the young, the delicacy of blooms, blossoms and petals signal the transitory beauty of love.

Poetry is handy for this kind of work. Ambition might not meet execution, but I had a muse to drive me, and the trial was worth it.