

A letter to the United States of America,

I am a citizen, just as you. A person who has fought for most of my life to better the world around through independent deeds, thoughts, and hopes that we would all somehow come together for the greater good. As a child, I saw the world through those of a traveller as I was a dependent of the military machine. I understood that the variety was so crucial an ingredient to what made us human. There was little need to differentiate those around me as they were all like me: people with dreams, aspirations, desires, joy, love, and so much more. Any surface differences were just that, a cover to an incredibly important book in the library of life.

We humans found ourselves in the unique position of being the stewards of this world, but have long ago lost track of what that position entails. The duties that were placed on our shoulders were not those to be taken lightly, but to be considered with the gravest of intentions. And we have all failed completely.

I can honestly say that while I tried my best to use the skills that I was endowed with, I am still nowhere close to where I want to be. Those first dreams were so effervescent with the desire to make changes that meant something to me. The pursuit of truth, the need to inform those around me, and the continued passion to learn all that there was to learn about everything. Perhaps my honesty sold me out, as I am not nearly as ruthless as those who have succeeded on the backs of others. I probably didn't try as hard as those heroes in this world who make an intrinsic difference: doctors, scientists, artists, musicians, writers, and others who share their skills with the world at large. But it doesn't mean that I've given up. I just have to work on a new game plan that I can live and love. Curiosity is still one of my best friends.

The creation of this nation had been based upon, perhaps not the purest of deeds, but with purest of hearts that truly understood the tremendous outcome that was to come when we did indeed succeed. We stood as the shining example of what could be accomplished when people stood as one to better the place to which they belonged. No longer would the differences be celebrated, as we were of one mind. But now that mind has become fragmented to the detriment of our world. We have become so obsessed with the goal that we no longer care about how the game is played. For life is indeed the ultimate game of chances.

History has shown that time and time again that the privileged have, for the most part, chosen the path of gratuities for their selves with little thought of the impact to others. This is especially true of those who we know as the "nouveau riche". The world of today shows that the people have once again lost their way and returned to the world of classism. Now, I understand that there are indeed generous benefactors who do realize that they have what they have by the grace of life. God has little to do with the treasures bestowed upon them, although spirit and faith have everything to do with their endeavors. These individuals remember that this current balance of power is indeed tenuous at best, and must be acknowledged by their continued devotion in making this world better as *our* God intends.

We now have a new social issue of greed that is destroying everything good that we have accomplished. We even have enormous entities which are the personification of that greed, which have already ravaged our delicate world. They believe that they are entitled for are they not made up of individuals who have rights? They chose to ignore the fact that they have vast resources at their disposals which an individual could never attain, and which makes them virtually impossible to stop. And they do not intend on stopping until there is no one on the mountain except for them. Perhaps they fail to recognize that the mountain can be a lonely place with no

purpose when there is no one to share the victory with. For all of the profits in the world will not keep them in the warmth of someone's heart. Wealth is cold, and no amount of purchases can warm its surroundings. Much like those mountain peaks.

We all share different beliefs in so many topics that it has become a tempest of late. Beliefs are the engine of change, and should be respected. When we chose to advance our own beliefs at the cost of another's, then we are guilty of those same acts that were the precursor to the development of this nation. Will we now be responsible for our own demise? We have forgotten the words of our forefathers, and the struggles that they endured that prompted their actions at the infancy of our nation. We would be wise to remember that it only takes small inappropriate actions to unravel all of the wonderful deeds that have been accomplished in our history. We have much to be proud of our distant past, but little to be proud of our present.

When we look at ourselves, we will notice something common with those entities that I spoke of previously: greed. Greed in small amounts is not a bad thing for it causes a person to work hard for what they want. But once that greed becomes all consuming, then something must be done to stop it from mutating. Once it mutates, it can take a miracle to stop its infection. We are currently entering a dangerous stage of infection that must be eradicated before it kills its host: our country.

I for one feel that those who are currently in power in many of the most powerful positions in this world, whether it is political, corporate, or religious, have become the hosts to this virus. It has come to the point that I can no longer bare to watch or listen to news events without cringing at the sheer hopelessness and untrustworthiness that these individuals represent. All that is cold and selfish is currently in the dominant position, and they choose to exercise their dominance like petulant self-absorbed brats.

When did an act of selflessness become such a social faux pas? In those good old days that everyone seems to love to gloat about, neighbors helped one another for the greater good. Now we have to listen to those who have dictate to those who don't. Democracy has become an oligarchy. Only equality can prevent strife. Only equality can stop that human part of us that wants more, no matter the cost. This is where nature succeeds over man, for it understands to take only what it needs so that everything stays balanced. And if we don't learn this lesson fast, then we will be on our way to becoming extinct ourselves. And once that happens, it will be even harder to crawl back over that precipice that leads to oblivion. What will it take for the people of this country to wake up and take back the power that was given to us? Is anyone even listening anymore? What happened to "with liberty and justice for all"?

I for one would like to be proud to be an American once again. Can someone please help?

Sincerely,

Carolyn Brajkovich, 2010