

Covid Masks

While putting on our masks
a pandemic is pulling the mask
off of this nation's inequity

The false narrative of
a healthcare "system"
as hospitals and staff struggle to obtain
protective gear while told there is plenty

While putting on our masks
The nation's health community and citizenry
are told that whoever wants a test can get one
even though the over three hundred million
are in competition for one and a half million
available test across the country daily

While putting on our masks
The mask come off of the disparity
of the convenience

For accessing groceries
The food deserts of the urban experience
The vulnerable emerge from these communities with
Poor access to healthy foods

With obesity, diabetes, asthma, hypertension
the most vulnerable and dying of covid-19

While putting on our masks
The masks are coming off the disparity
in educating our citizens
private universities struggle to transition
some universities struggle and close
secondary, public and charter schools
scramble to transition
private schools scramble

but do not see their privilege
this has never been done
“but my child will be behind”
behind who?
the whole world is experiencing this
While putting on our masks
The mask comes off of a population
So incredibly uncomfortable being told no
You can’t go there, you can’t do that, you must stay away
We can’t take it,
We are uncomfortable,
so they carry assault weapons
into a State capital building and
threaten the lawmakers with impunity
Rallied from a white house
That suggest they should be bargained with
As they spout unreferenced
constitutional right violations
And thus, another divide
between the population which feels more secure
being away and remaining patient
Is three or four months of silence, too much to ask
to save a population?
Now you remain silent, that is about someone else.
When others say, they are uncomfortable
When others die, are you comfortable?
Does it not affect you?
Do you not see what we see?
Is your mask over your eyes?
While putting on our masks
The mask is coming off
the nature of people

the inequity of the social project
there has not been one school shooting
since the schools were closed
But it never stopped the killing of unarmed black people
In their homes, or live on video, with seemingly impunity
While putting on our masks
We have seen the deliberate, premeditated
call to accuse a black man, of fraudulent acts
hoping they will be punished and destroyed
To hide the truth of a white person's crime
While putting on our mask
Police are on the hunt
Oops, wrong address in Louisville, death
silence of a murder in Georgia, no charges
crushing necks in Minnesota, live on camera
The rising acts of hatred have been the fever,
of an infected nation
And the body will take no more
While putting on our masks
let us pull open the closed eyelids
of the comfortable privileged
expose them to the lives and truth
they carelessly step over
And now it is in the streets,
Can you hear the cry,
listen, just be still and listen
Can you not hear the cry?
Hear it, ever so faintly...
yet, screaming
through our masks
I can't breathe, momma,
I can't breathe.....But you shall live!

© VL Mason 2020

© VL Mason 2020

With My Dog

I wake up each morning and
check the weather
Out the window
Wash my face
brush my teeth
and take my dog for a walk
because without my dog
I am a black man on the street
Alone
I am a target for suspicion
With my dog,
I am less of a threat
With my dog
I am actually a neighbor
With my dog
we know...his dog
I know his dog's name
better than I know his
there goes Nikey,...with his Dad
Every day I am Black
It is not a burden
It is not a constant thought
But it is very real
Because
I live in America