

BETWEEN THE BRICKS
AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE -
LIES A LOST GENERATION

7/16

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10/4/12

IN THE 50'S, ONE OF AMERICA'S
GREATEST FEARS WAS A NUCLEAR WAR -
THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF A NUCLEAR
BLAST WAS THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES.
A COLD WAR CENTER-BRIMMER TO THE
AMERICAN DREAM.

FAST FORWARD 50 YEARS AND
A NEW 'NIGHTMARE' HAS BEEN UNLEASHED.
THE BACKBONE OF AMERICAN SOCIETY WAS
THE NUCLEAR FAMILY, AND IT'S FOUNDATION
HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY SOMETHING OTHER
THAN I.C.B.M.'S.

ENTIRE SEGMENTS OF AMERICAN
SOCIETY, HAVE BEEN BLOWN AWAY...
THE FALLOUT CAN BE SEEN, NOT JUST
IN THE NUMBER OF FRAGMENTED,
DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES - BUT IN THE,
APPARENTLY, WATERED DOWN VALUES
OF A SOCIETY LOOKING UP AS ITS
MORAL DECLINE.

I SEE THE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY
AS A PATCHWORK QUILT - I'D LIKE TO
FOCUS, FOR A MOMENT, ON ONE UNRAVELING
THREAD... THERE IS BEAUTY IN OUR
DIVERSITY, WARMTH IN THE MEMORIES
OF WHAT MADE THIS NATION GREAT.

8-16

And there's hope in our shared aspirations for tomorrow. — However, some of those "memories" are mixed with horror stories, and tomorrow holds fear and uncertainty for far too many. — Just Dilt covers many with the promise of the American Dream, while greater, and greater numbers are left out in the cold.

ELIE WIESEL SAID: "Never remain silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." — "Night" Pub'd 1958

I'd like to focus, for a moment, on the suffering of the children, and the humiliation of the parents separated not just by the "razor wire", but the digital divide.

The figures I quoted at the beginning of this post are almost 6 years old — there's a dimension of incarceration impact on children that was not addressed — parents in state prisons have no access to the means of communication

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which have become 2nd NATURE
to a DIGITAL GENERATION - 'L.O.L.',
'BRB', and 'C.U. LTR.' might as well
be 'CRYPTOHEBRAIC Hieroglyphics'.
Kids are 'hardwired' to respond
to TEXTS, I.M.'s, E-MAILS and TWEETS.
'Snail Mail' might as well be
compared to The Pony Express.

Please forgive my unhandwriting -
I'm writing this ^{at} after lights out
in The Big House. ☺

I was going to finish this
tomorrow - but IT'S FRIDAY AM.
(C.S.T.) I have to drop this in
the mail in a few hours if I
want it out before the weekend -
However - this evening, I received
by "snail mail" my first series
of 'comments' from 'Between The
Bars' ☺ Hello Nicki!

Unfortunately I'm just
receiving your request to use
one of my blogs as a 'part of
an ethnographic study' for one of
your classes - the 'TIME LAG' has
nothing to do with the fact that
you are writing from AUSTRALIA. ☺
Please feel free to use anything
that I post 'Between The Bars'

10-16

In fact - let's collaborate
on an "essay" ⁱⁿ As I mentioned,
The 'Stats' that I started this
post with were initially pub'd
in 07 - I'd feel blessed if
you could take a look at the
website for the 'Natl Resource Ctr.
on Children & Families of the Incorporated
(NRCFI-ORG ??) and see if
there is any 'updated' info - If
so, does it address the 'Digital
Divide'.

John Ruskin once said, "The
greatest thing a human soul ~~can~~
ever does in this world is to
see something and tell what he
saw in a plain way. Hundreds of
people can talk for one who can
think - and thousands can think
for one who can see. To see
clearly is poetry, or prophecy, and
religion all in one." - Ruskin
wrote that over 100 yrs ago!

Today we get images flashed
in our faces in H.D.T.V., on C.R.N.,
or on I-phones, palm pilots and
Blackberries - A 10 yr old can
'Google' more info in 10 minutes
than some 'scholars' of the past
could access in ~~minutes~~ a lifetime.

11-16

However - Ideas are to ideas
what bricks are to buildings -
Some assembly is required. ^{oo}
I'm about to bring this train of
thought into the station - but I
took the "scenic route" to let
a new friend of mine from Australia
know that she was CARTE BLANCHE
to use anything that I post
between the bars for classes,
essays, or conversations over
a cup of coffee. ^{oo} NO RULES -
JUST WRITE! ^{oo}

It's all about the shaping
of ideas - a line in one of my
poems says:

It may see like a mystery,
when in fact it's crystal clear.
Just take a look at history,
man - a bomb can't stop an idea.

In fact - I want to share
that poem in its entirety - It's
called "Headline Views" ... It
was written in Sept 08 - just
before the last ^{presidential} election -
I'd spent that weekend here
at Center in prayer and fasting.
I jotted down about 40 plus
news events from that weekend -
and in a stream of consciousness -
wrote this poem - It predates

12-16

Re Economic Meltdown - The ~~SARS~~
S.A.R.S. epidemic and the Hawthorne
Battle ... I guess it's a hint of
what Ruskin might have been
referring to.

Enjoy! But remember,
any 'comments' posted to the
'BETWEEN THE BARS' site might not
reach me until next year. ^{cc}
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