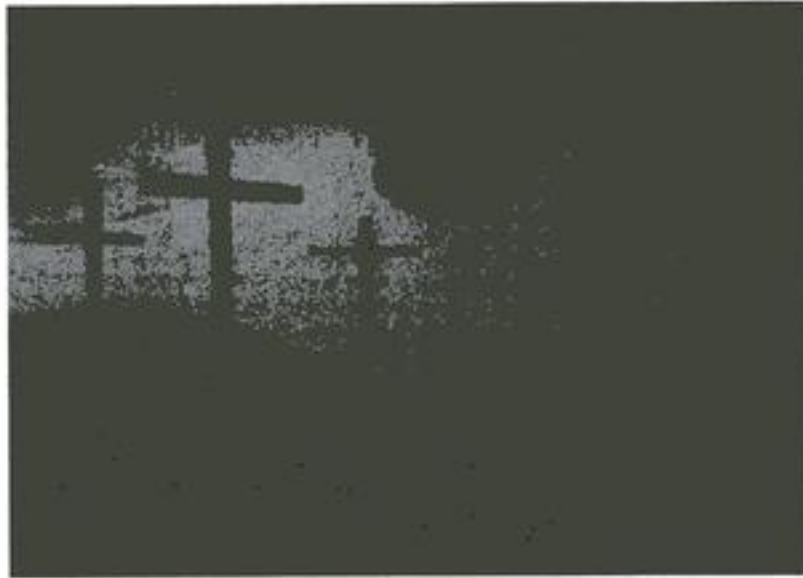


Attention

My Fellow Poets. I'm in need of Greeting Cards. I'm allowed to receive in any one Manilla envelope #10 Cards. I'm in need of Thinking of you Cards - Thank you Cards and Love cards. What ever you can do for me will Be warmly recieved. Send them to.

James Collins E-81393
Lancaster State Prison
P.O Box 4670
Housing D-3-219
Lancaster, CA. 93539



"The Wilderness"

Do I want to bear my cross?

What a painful ordeal!

There are no spikes through my hands,

No bones that rip open my back?

The only whip that I feel,

Is depression, & the sense of being alone...

I have not had the privilege,

To walk the life of another man;

That voice is lost to the wilderness...

The state cast lots for my belongings

For I stood guilty of crimes...

Now I bear my cross of shame!

-James Collins

Can I Stand Up?

*My America,
I once felt Her love!
Her hands were tender...
I drew her blood with crime;
But the only thing that was robbed-
Was my soul!
Now I sit in this cell,
Pondering what it is to be American?
The simplistic life...
One where no one has to fear;
A life where everyone pitches in...
Where faces are not recognized by color?
When I can stand up,
And say to myself, I belong to Her!*

-James Collins

JUST 4 TODAY

Illustrated by J. C.

(Just For Today)

Just for today

I will be less judgmental

Just for today

I'll steal a moment of God's time

Just for today

I'll be less irritating to strangers

Just for today

I'll feed the hungry

Just for today

I'll pray for my enemies

Just for today

I'll rise above my depression

Just for today

I'll love all; just because I can

-James Collins, alias J. C.