

## As Darkness Descends

*The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children. Exodus 34:7*

It is perplexing, as darkness descends,  
how people see dusk and say it is dawn.

The dead have spoken from their shallow graves,  
and the living have listened and answered:  
It is altogether just and fitting  
to rip children out of their mother's arms,  
to mock the outcast child who sits alone  
on the bus to school and in the lunchroom  
since their identity does not conform,  
to assault girls and women at their school  
and work with the words, "your body, my choice."

There is no shame, the dead tell the living,  
to return America to the past,  
halcyon days when men knew what was best,  
women were to keep to their given place,  
and folks were told to stick with their own kind.

The dead tell the living, God is with you  
just as God was with us in days gone by,  
so now, make America great again:  
enhance the rich, turn away from the poor,  
cast out the alien from among you,  
exploit the earth to take all it can give,  
subdue creatures who fly, swim, graze and pounce,  
for thus it was in the age when we held sway.  
Go, seize the heritage we bequeathed you.

There are those who know all this is a lie.  
Weeping bitter tears, their spirits broken,  
with them there is now much lamentation,  
for they know what the dead are declaring  
is built upon the shifting sand of hate,  
cruelty, ignorance, incompetence,  
and they fear the harvest of pain to come.

The dead, seeking to justify themselves,  
speak to the living from their shallow graves,  
but not all answer, we who know the task  
before us now is to act with kindness.  
So let us proceed on the basis of love,  
not that of candy hearts, but love that bears  
all things, believes all things, endures all things.  
How else can we hope to be who we are,  
the ones who seek after peace and good will?