

## **Sacred Duplicity**

America!

The proverbial land flowing with milk and honey

Cookie cutter of Rome's eternal city

God's dwelling place now that the temple has been destroyed

Anointed and Chosen

To wreak havoc upon the earth

You defame the name of God

The way you treat God's people

Stealing some, killing others, marginalizing all

For the sake of your sacred dollar

The annals of history are full

With names and faces who you have crushed to have your own way

Escaping your own hell

You've created it for others

No need for seven years of tribulation

Evil is alive and well right here

You exonerate yourselves with pious language

Hiding behind pretentious platitudes and prayers

As if God would look past your misdeeds of racism and white supremacy if you put his name on it

As if God wouldn't care about the stolen lands and stolen bodies

And hungry bellies

And polluted waters

If you shouted and danced hard enough

Like the prophets of Baal

But God can't hear you over the harrowing screams of black and brown folks

Whose sons and daughters lay dead in the streets

And whose mothers they cannot afford to feed

And whose fathers are dying because they don't have health insurance

And whose family is being deported unless 45 gets his wall

And whose sisters and brothers and play cousins live under the constant threat of death and destruction because their very bodies testify against the misdeeds of a country that claims to love God so much while hating God's people

*These poems are excerpted from a collection of poems by Ebony Adedayo entitled*

***Musings of a Liberated Black Woman, 2017***

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And still you have the sheer audacity to get upset when we grow indignant  
When football players take a knee  
When we march through the streets chanting and screaming  
And burn down your cities

You come up out of yourselves when we block freeways  
Call us thugs when we shut down malls  
Shoot rubber bullets at us when we protest your building projects  
Arrest us when we protest their laws

As if we should take the violence  
And constant degradation  
And just roll over  
And let massa hit us once more  
As if silence is more godly than resistance  
As if complacency will get us closer to freedom than demanding liberation

America, not beautiful  
You have always been hell to me  
We see through your ruse and find you wanting  
We see through the lies and find you deeply scarred

Won't you consider for just a moment  
God's imminent judgment  
Won't you repent  
Put on sackcloth and ashes  
Wedge yourself in between the altar  
And lament over all that you have done

Won't you turn from your evil ways  
And loose the chains of slavery that you have been holding onto so tightly  
And make amends with those you have destroyed  
And provide food, housing, and water to those you have ripped off

This is what repentance looks like  
You see, this is what religion consists of  
This is the sacrifice that pleases God  
Everything else, well everything else, is nothing more than sacred duplicity

## **Babel**

Babel went up in flames  
I cared not that it burned  
I watched on in delight as the twin flames of blue and gold consumed everything in their paths

One by one the strongholds fell  
one by one, they loosened their grip  
over the lives of the people as they disintegrated into ash and dust piling up on the earth reeking not of smoke  
but of the death it had harbored within its walls

Babel fell today  
that great untouchable city became nothing in a manner of moments  
and they asked us if we missed it  
and chastised us for dismantling it  
as if Babel were our best hope at salvation  
oblivious, or perhaps, not even caring that for all of its glitz and glam, it thrived because  
our blood gave it life

Today, Babel came tumbling down  
and we were the ones who broke down the walls  
we were the ones who lit the flame to its sacred places  
that tore through the fortified walls with our nails  
unbothered by how the flames might have torched us  
unconcerned with the blood dripping down our fingers  
we were going out free today  
by every means necessary