

ON PREJUDICE

We live in an oppressive patriarchy.

I'm tired of talking about books by dead white men.

Let women speak for themselves! Only you be silent.

Republicans are literal fascists.

You shouldn't use that word anymore.

People like them don't deserve a platform.

Someone like him doesn't deserve due process.

Fellow liberals and Left.

Whenever you spoke these words, did you not see they brought hate into your world? Out of others and from within yourselves? And now that a little time has passed... do these words not make you a little sick to read them? Do you not see the fear and resentment hiding in the words?

And who or what led you to such hateful words? What *drives* the phenomenon behind such speech? You thought it was the oppressed leading your actions? I say no, for the oppressed cannot lead. Rather-- it was a vortex of hate, into which you were pulled. And such a vortex corrupts any good thoughts it may find.

So first look at yourself-- not say it was others. And see if hateful ideas hide behind your kinder words.

And do you claim I show too much sympathy for some others *more* hateful? Then you know not who you punished, who you shut out, who you scorned. Among them so many charitable and wise of the nation-- high friends and allies who need you, now waiting for you to rediscover them with kinder eyes.

Do you not see your *direction of movement* in relation to hate was itself most hateful? And what might this say of the strength of ideas that drove your speech? And so in future you must take speech not quite so lightly.

And what saddens me more... for I now see in centuries: some of you still think of yourselves as privileged. You who are victims of a curiously cruel age— so rich in material comforts for some, yet so many suffering of dignity and Will. And most cannot admit this, even to themselves. Because of where they are afraid to look.

So I say you spoke words *not first* to hate others— rather to keep you from loving yourselves. Merely to avoid some painful reflection. And so never saw many good things you could have sought to have done.

And I speak harshly now, and I do so with purpose. That we become more harsh on ourselves in future. And dare to look more often at what drives us to speak.

And my old self-- he thought to let you lose hate on your own. But now I see I must help provide bitter medicine, to make you less cruel. So that in the coming days, you might find more empathy for those who tried to warn you of what you were doing... however much hate hid in their expressions as well.

For I believe both sides are friends by nature, but victims of the same storm.

And so I command you: no longer hate.

And we have learned this lesson before. And will have to learn it again.