

OMAR M'SAI
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK, USA
JUNE 2020

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

It is with great humility and deep gratitude that I want to say thank you all for showing up in whatever way that you chose to make your stand against the systemic and consistent abuse of our un-armed brothers and sisters at the hands of these police officers.

This is nothing new, and has been going on throughout my lifetime in one manner or another.

It filled my heart with joy to realize that people from all over the world were beginning to see what black people in this country have had the burden of seeing and knowing for a long time. It was becoming so commonplace that I was beginning to wonder if America was content with the idea of being a refuge for white supremacists.

To see not only this country, but people from all over the world speaking out and demonstrating against brutality and the abuse of Afrikan people in cultures all over the world, is a joy to behold.

White supremacy has become a world-wide phenomenon, and it was apparent in the show of resistance exhibited by you, in Brazil, in Germany, in London, and in France....in Manhattan, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and Chicago....

How do these events affect us as Sufis? We are not a political group or a haven of activists...though we are people embedded in a political culture that is steeped in white supremacist ideology.

Perhaps this is a time to re-evaluate all of our values.

First and foremost, we owe it to our hearts and our breath to make sure that we are aligned with our true values. Once we are able to see the divine in all beings then we can begin to harmonize and interact with others. So the personal work must be done first.

Amerika has determined to keep blacks as a permanent underclass, and unless there is a concerted effort to resolve the black community's access to capital and the available resources, then there is no forward movement, and the events of the last few weeks will continue indefinitely.



Certainly we are not here to tell anyone what he or she must do, but I would like to suggest that as Sufis here are certain things which we should do...

We must always seek the truth, even when it leads us to conclusions that we do not like.

We must decide if we want a true democracy, or if we are content living in all white communities protected by illegal, whites-only covenants.

If we are to take full advantage of the events of the last few weeks we will need to take a serious look at ourselves.

Racism as a personal issue. Ask yourself, what are the tools of liberation inherent in this struggle to defeat racism within my very self?

Racism is a cultural and social issue. We have an opportunity to work tirelessly with our fellow Americans to strip out the white supremacist aspects of our social codes and policies.

Structurally. By far, structural and systemic racism is the most difficult to recognize and to uproot, and not the path that most of us will take. But to those of us who have a seat at that table, who have the resources and the knowledge of what needs to be done, and are in a position to do something, we look to you for guidance in this high-stakes competition to sustain our very democracy. I honor your commitment to this fight which is no less than a fight against the very foundation of good and evil.

Ya Fattah

Love,
Omar M'Sai
New York City, New York, USA
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