

“Gifts For forever and After”

by Poet t.l. sanders

Well, considering the given predicament,  
I present this BlackLivesMatter sign as a present sent  
to be opened in silence

Listen.

Sankofa eyelids allows us to live with color in mind and  
move forward from being blinded. Reminded  
our job, as a people, is defined in acts of kindness  
and in how we’re applying them to dying conversations

Think of applications  
when places ask what one’s race is- s/he could mark other  
Ideally, the hue of the applicant applies less to levels of melanin pigment  
and more toward the kind of person by which one wishes to be depicted

The hint is the kind of man  
The tint is the hue. Man  
is meant to mix and blend  
with hues of men regardless our skin  
We didn’t pick it

It’s no picnic  
We know  
picket signs guide blind mankind  
to future contracts we both co-sign  
We’re buying the whole goldmine outlined in light  
where white whisks all colors to illuminate the night  
helping us see tangible pieces of Peace

Gently  
open our eyelids and read with deeper belief  
*The BlackLivesMatter sign had to happen*

My Dear Applicants,  
Black represents all the colors combined  
AS ONE  
when it comes to pigments. Comprehend that

I'm not trying to rain on your parade or your protest  
Although what remains is,  
*Have we noticed? The after effect  
of rain brings a rainbow?*

See pots of gold through souls' window. Pain  
and hate—they have to go. Leaving  
Love Of Laughter to be mastered. Making  
racist cancers and natural disasters  
two wrongs that turn us to the road of right answers

Yesterday, today, and forever after