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Another One...

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The response of a coworker after I tell him the news
Almost a non-chalant answer as if I told him nothing new

Views all too familiar in our ironic society
Made up of people from different colors, in all variety

As a foreigner himself, he tells me he doesn’t understand
How color alone could deem someone less than a man?

From Rice to Bland, from Gray to Garner
How many more of these tragedies must occur in order to garner

A pragmatic response instead of a systematic answer
That used to appease the ears yet never curing the cancer

Metastasizing anger; symptoms include riots,
Hostility, vengeance and opportunistic violence

How many more pleas and decrees of “Don’t shoot” and “I can’t breathe”
Will it take for our country to recognize what we’re too willfully blind to see?

As though we cover our eyes and refuse to believe
A problem the entire world is capable to perceive

Our conversation continues but there’s no way I can explain
Hundreds of years that have led us to this day

From slavery to Jim Crow-inspired discrimination
From institutional racism to mass incarceration

Is color truly a demarcation for a subhuman classification?
Is our culture grounds enough to target us for elimination?

Though he’ll never understand, his sympathy is somewhat relieving
To know there are some people with the same future to which we’re dreaming

He said he hopes there’s a day when all of this will finally be done
I replied, “Hopefully it’s before there’s a day with another one…”

Wait, I have a single question, something many fail to mention
How do you solve a “problem” that is your very invention?