



I SAW... I CRIED

Inspired by From Here I Saw
What Happened and I Cried
by Carrie Mae Weems

from here I saw what happened
from here I too saw
what happened

we were a strong people, a proud
people...

we were a civilized
people with an
advanced and humane
culture

but that reality was taken from us and
replaced with something evil

they stole us from our
hometown, herded us into ships,
and sailed us across the world.
They ripped away our traditions,
tore apart families, and ruined
life after beautiful life.

i haven't forgotten

beaten and whipped,
and whipped and
beaten, and beaten...

i have seen the pictures of the picture of
that old man with the corded backside

and beaten...

and the bone thin men, women, and children

and whipped...

i saw what happened—I see what's happening. Can you see what they have done to us?

can you believe what they are still doing to us?

the prisons... how we populate them, how we fill them, how they put us behind bars en masse and then call us a scourge. And what about the children?

you mean how they refuse to teach the realities of our shared history, how they water it down so the acid of it doesn't burn through the pages of their textbooks?

lets not start on our financial state or our economic struggles

or our social situation or our civic sadness

i saw what happened—I see what's happening. Can you see what they have done to us?

can you believe what they are still doing to us?

what about you? Don't you see it too?

