

“White people will hurt themselves to hurt black people.”

Ruthie Mae McInnis in her kitchen

“[Whites who dared differ] among themselves
concerning the role and the utility of the Black...
were hounded out of the White community
as being worse than niggers—as being traitors,
that is, to the American Dream”

James Baldwin in *Evidence of Things Not Seen*

COVID CONSEQUENCES OF CLAN GOVERNANCE

President Agent Orange burned the blueprint
protecting polarized people from a pandemic
because black words don't sit well
in the basement of his bleached bowels,
or maybe his bookcase is better suited
for blonde trophies than books of blue cross.

Demolition men in Wall Street suits and painted palms
designated to deconstruct kaleidoscopic dreams
can lead a chalky revolution but can't construct
a crisis manual containing compassion 'cause
clan curriculums are driven by canine lust
ensuring MAGA catastrophe for colorful bodies.

Yet, returning roosters radically red with racism
picket the president that they picked to produce
piping-hot pandemonium that scorches civil flowers
in the name of ashen liberty and withering tax base
confirm the concrete words of Harlem's witness that
wild dogs will eat each other in the name of sovereignty.

C. Liegh McInnis, Clinton, Mississippi