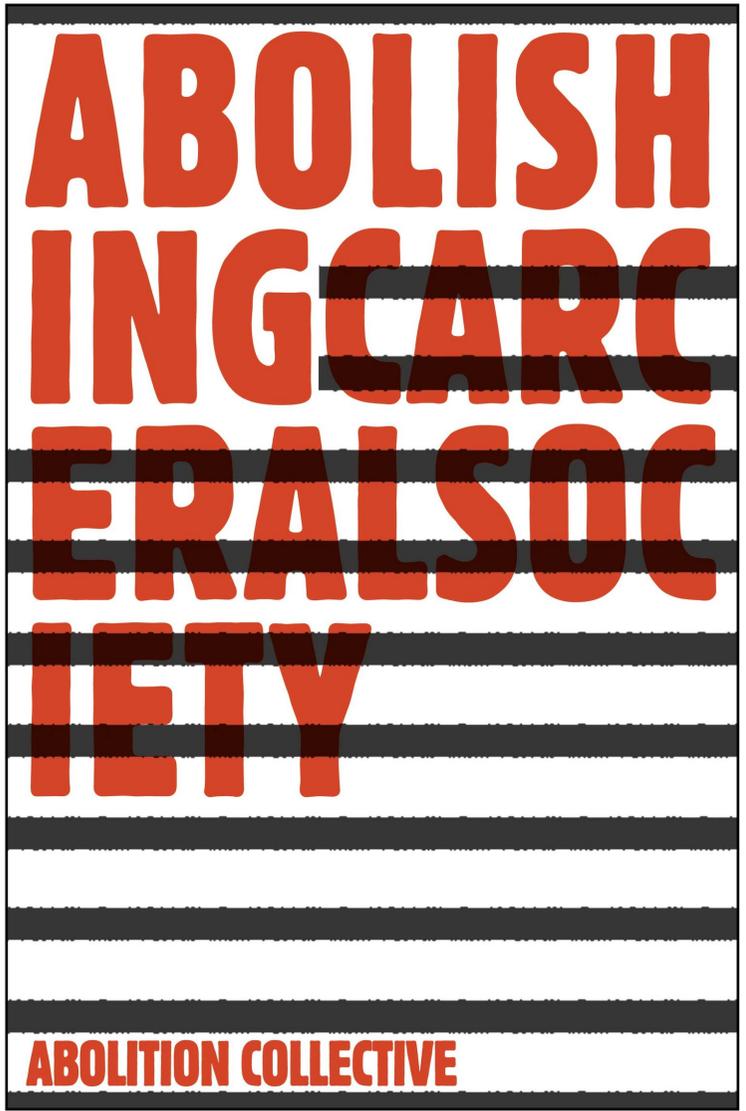


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I SEEN SOMETHING

Max Parthas

I seen something in South Carolina.
I seen something all across America.
Yes I seen something and I've got something to say.
I'm here now. What's more is I've been here before-
At the capitol where the confederate flag flies every day.

Prison is our top industry.
It's infinitely more profitable for the populace than mom and
pop stores.
That's how it is here in my state and it may be the same in
yours.
Check it, I mean it, and let me know when you've seen it.

The police here are big bruisers and have a sport where they
"bump" young black men with their cruisers as they reck-
lessly chase them through their community like deer.
Like Marlon Brown they will run you down and our people live
in constant fear.

You know who they are.
The People Eaters.

I seen something and I know you seen it too
because when I was there I was talking directly to you
at the SC state capitol on numerous occasions
Using every method of poetic persuasion I have
when speaking to the community
as an abolitionist.

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As a witness to this monstrous atrocity
at the same place
for the same reasons my forebears spoke in 1850
in the very same city.
After another black mother's child died
and no one wanted to say why.

I marched with babies and beside the young men so they could
all see it too and know what to do when they see it again.

I have personally witnessed from courtrooms in a state of fury
as my black fathers, mothers, sons and brothers
were unjustly tried and incarcerated by all white
or near all white juries...

On purpose! In fact it's accepted tactics.
That's just how they do.
No polls or graphs needed to convince me it's true.
I seen it. . .and you seen it too.

With my own eyes I seen lawyers manipulate the structure of
a jury by race.
By the color of someone's face.
I suggest you go see it take place ...personally.
No reason why you can't.
For all intents and purposes our courts
looks just like a CCA or GEO corporate product processing
plant.

I seen it. You'd see it too if you ever looked around.
You would know...

"There's "Something In The Way Of Things (In Town)"
So don't ask me why I'm so intense these days
because if you felt what I'm feeling
there would be more blood on this page.
And if you know like I know...

**“To be black and conscious in America
is to be in a constant state of rage.” —James Baldwin**

So I’m not trying to hear about what’s “legal” or politically correct.

This is not some problem that can be solved with a check.
Have you forgotten what was said about a man named Dred?
**“. . .that colored persons of African descent have no rights that
white men are bound to respect”**

Here’s a finger for your feelings.
Maybe even two. You know how I do.
I’m trying to be honest.

I don’t give a damn about what ever laws
you think we need to change
and which politician you vainly claim
can superman our lives out of bondage . . .

A mission of petitions seems meaningless in this madness.

As Taylor Mali predicted.
**“And somewhere in Florida. . . .
Votes are still being counted”**

I’m trying to say *I seen it*.
You seen it too.
You all know it’s true.
Every genocide is considered legal
by the people
doing the killing, enslaving,
exploiting and raping.
They never stop taking.

Till your eternal spirit is drained
and your soul left stained
by feelings of shame and guilt so old and ingrained
that you can’t even *name it*
Until all that is left is the overwhelming urge
to protect and serve
The men who enslaved you and made you in their image.

There in the mirror of your soul!
Do you see it?!

Yes. . .I believe that you do.
That's why I said I seen something.
I seen it.
And I know you seen it too.

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Dedicated to Amiri Baraka. 1/12/2014.

Maximus Parthas (born in 1964 in Paterson, NJ) is a modern day abolitionist, activist, spoken word artist, and mentor. He is a visionary who doesn't mind speaking his mind and facing the ugly truths of modern day slavery head-on via the use of public platforms such as social media, broadcast radio, spoken word poetry, and videography. Parthas endeavors to enlighten and educate his audiences by gifting them with poetic images that leave them searching for truth.

His "in your face" honesty and passion act as a double edged sword that will force you to open your eyes and see the world for what it is (minus the rose-colored glasses); especially when it comes to the topic of modern day slavery and the prison industrial system. He has won numerous awards and accolades and is well-respected in the spoken word industry, both nationally and internationally. He has appeared on stage with poetry giants, Emmy, Peabody and Grammy award winner(s), Hollywood actors and Hip-Hop artists alike. His work has appeared in anthologies, CDs, and numerous publications.

Maximus Parthas currently resides in Columbia, SC.