

Freedom Is Not Free: The Sacrifices Which Must Be Made For a More Just and Free Society

The words "Freedom is not Free" is one of the truest statements we will ever hear. Freedom was what motivated our ancestors in the Revolutionary War to rebel against King George's tyranny. It is what inspired the French to overturn its monarchy and establish a republic. It is the reason that the Canadians rebelled against the British in 1837. Freedom is one of the most basic right of human life. The will to be free permeates all beings on this planet. And Freedom, True Freedom, is a prerequisite for Justice. But what would you give up for Freedom? When does it go too far for you to continue to sacrifice? I know my answer. My answer is that it is never too far for freedom, never a distance too great or a sacrifice to large for the honest seeker of Justice and Freedom. I am one of those people who yell "Give me liberty or give me death". I would sacrifice all that I had, wealth, reputation, life, to have the freedom all of us want but few of us work for.

But what is freedom? The real question is how free should we be? The freedom I want, that I am willing to die for is complete. When I say the word "freedom" what do you think of? What comes to mind? Gays having the freedom to marry? Us having the right to bear arms? I am interested in that type of freedom, Social Freedom. But I am for a type of freedom that is necessary for those to actualize to their full potential. I want Economic Freedom. Economic Freedom for all. This is the freedom necessary for a Just and Free society. This is the only way that true freedom can be achieved. Many people in history have noticed this. Albert Einstein, John Lennon and Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King(1). All these people sacrificed for their views on Freedom, even when they knew they might not see "The other side of the Mountain". They knew that even if you kill the dreamer you can never kill the dream. But what is "Economic Freedom"? Economic Freedom is the freedom to not

have to worry if you can feed your family if you get laid off at work. Economic Freedom is the freedom to vote from your ideals instead of from your pocketbook. It is the freedom to not have to submit to an oppressive job so that you can keep your health care. This is the freedom that must come to fruition before any true social freedoms would be allowed. A perfect example is the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of the United States Military regarding Homosexuality in the Armed Forces. Sure they can be gay, but if they are openly then they lose their job(2)? That isn't the freedom to be gay!! That is an example of the economic coercion rampant in the United States of America. Another example is the detestable Supreme Court ruling removing the limitations of how much money a corporation could give. Trust me there is going to be a lot more conservatives in congress this election year. Who are the congressmen going to listen to? Average constituent or the CEO of the big corporation that payed their way to Congress? When that ruling came through it put the mock in democracy(3).

But what can we do about this? How can we stop it? What is the solution to this tyranny? There is a simple answer. Fight it. This system that puts the power of the few who have money relies on those that have none. If the proletariat fight the power of the bourgeoisie who control how the nation's leaders vote and how we think, then we can achieve freedom from the chains. Our own hands must shatter the chains that we have put on ourselves(4). Only then freedom can be achieved. This is the only way. We can't rely on others to fight for us, we must do it ourselves. The time is over for nationalism and bowing to the will of our masters. This is the time to make our ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War proud. We have a choice: Keep living on in this system of oppression or fight for the freedom to be our own masters. If you choose the second choice, to establish a true democracy and freedom for all, then be prepared. Sentiment in this country is already against you. Not just from the upper class who make are on top of this system, but from the lower classes which they have brainwashed into believing the propaganda they spew forth. It is not to be undertaken by cowards or

the faint of heart, for if you believe and fight for this, you will lose reputation, jobs, wealth and possibly even your life. And when we establish true democracy, not only will our names go down in history, but all men will be free. And if you still have reservations remember, they can do what they want to the dreamer, but they can NEVER kill the dream.