

In Praise of Mandela

Apartheid,
A monster of social construct,
Shorn of any hypocrisy
To pursue its bottomless greed!
Its life-lines were sustained
By the blood sucked out of
The very black people
It demeaned so cruelly.

It was so glaringly unjust
One was certain
Just as death follows life
It was bound to come to an end;
Yet its ugly existence
Propped up
By the full force of modern technology,
Rationalized
With the twisted logic of racist white zealots,
Apartheid donned the flesh of eternal life.

But it had its detractors from all races,
The best of whom were represented
By the freedom fighter,
Mandela;
An ordinary black man
Distinguished
By his granite-like determination
And persistence in the simple truth
Apartheid would finally collapse
To be replaced by a more just society!
Now along with other social filth,
Apartheid has been tossed away,
Serving a useful negative lesson ironically
In its new status as a historical relic.

In the words of President Nelson Rolihlahla Dalibhunga Mandela of South Africa:
"Never, never, never again
This beautiful land will experience
The oppression of one by another;
Suffer the indignity
Of being the skunk of the world.
Let freedom reign!"

5/19-21/1994
SWS