

## **Barukh Hamangarib**

Prime Mover, Blurrer of Boundaries  
creating evening and dawn  
You daily remind us of the fallacy of binary  
through our natural transitions

*hamangarib arabim*

Creator of Infinite Gradations  
You make evening fall  
blurring day and night  
we dream of a world without borders  
with no walls to keep others out  
and no locks on our doors  
or the self-driving cars

we dream of a world where the streets  
where their kids get shot  
are the same ones where my kids  
go to the movies

strike that - a world  
where there are no more streets  
where kids get shot  
and no need for police

and their kids are as precious  
to us as ours  
and we rejoice  
when their kids

cure cancer and diabetes  
and HIV and Alzheimer's  
and the autoimmune hatred disease  
and get the credit for it

their Black and beautiful faces  
dominating our 24-hour news cycle  
with their world-altering discoveries  
and stories of waging Peace

and those in housing and those without  
break bread together  
and praise You with full bellies  
on mansion lawns

and we realize that land  
cannot be owned  
we belong to it  
not the other way around

and each person's gender is as celebrated  
and familiar and varied as their favorite TV show  
and we don't mind if they don't have one  
or if it changes after a few seasons

and we become literate in indigenous cultures  
and speak Miami and Potawatomi  
taught as native tongues in Chicago Public Schools  
as easily and more often than the immigrant English and Spanish

where we know the geographies  
of the First Nations and federations  
Lenape, Lakota, Ojibwe, Cree, Cahuilla, Suquamish  
Navajo, Iroquois, Algonquin, Sioux

like we know the white man's Europe  
Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales  
France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal  
Poland, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine

where White Europeans learn  
from indigenous peoples  
the art of not-polluting and  
what the land needs from us

where we stop shaming illiteracy  
to make ourselves feel better  
and we value cultural literacy  
more than ability to decipher orthography

where hunger is a passing feeling  
or a result of poor planning  
never a state of being  
to which children are subjected

and the time when  
we would not feed everyone  
despite the earth's bounty  
was something we learned

in history class from teachers

paid not only fairly but well  
trusted with our children  
to impart and improve our wisdom

in schools where students are surprised  
to learn that their plowshares and pruning hooks  
used to be instruments of death  
called "AK-47s" and "AR-15s"

where we have no words  
for incarceration or deportation  
and displacement is only a physics concept  
that makes canoes float

where killing only happens in horror flicks  
oppression is folly and war primitive  
slavery unthinkable and rape never experienced  
and fear a strange relic of the body like the appendix

where we listen to the deaf  
and look to the blind  
to design our spaces  
to be safe and accessible for everyone

where water's scarcity and necessity  
mean we don't waste it  
on unethical frivolities like fracking  
and we pour out our gratitude

to You, Author of Creation  
You roll light into darkness and darkness into light  
spinning the wheel of the world in controlled fashion  
like a basketball on the fingertip of a Harlem Globetrotter

Opener of Possibilities  
You demonstrate dismantling segregation  
make us mindful of every sunset  
majestic blurring of blues and oranges

Bringer of Evenings  
Brilliant and Original Mixologist  
*barukh ata adonai*  
*hamangarib arabim*

(Jay Stanton)