

LeT me LIStEN 000 000

By Stewart Acuff

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...Here is such a lovely poem just because. The art of listening is such a gracious gift offered by such a sorry few. Acuff can instruct and delight us, as all the Al's ALready know. Active Listening (AL) is a trait I have ever strived for and so often failed at... 'Excuse me for talking while you were interrupting' ...is a pithy little ejaculate I have heard all too often. Now for Stewart who describes the skill so beautifully I could quite possibly prick-up and take notice... "To know much of life was out of reach by intention / Ears open, tell me in detail all done to keep you down / Close as possible to the ground." Finger on the trigger, aiming straight at my ASMR, all a tingle...*

Sit with me in the lonely, early, eerie fog before day break

Let me listen to your life's stories and aches

Listen to lessons you learned in a life unlike mine

How it was to be one of the Others

To never feel a part of all together

To know much of life was out of reach by intention

Ears open, tell me in detail all done to keep you down

Close as possible to the ground

Help me see with open eyes

How privilege helped me to rise

Help me fight more effectively

For your freedom and our equality.

THE POET SPEAKS: *The poem, obviously, is straight forward and to the point as I see our way forward. White people like me have a responsibility to understand and confront white supremacy.*

AUTHOR'S BIO: Stewart is a poet, author, and retired union organizer living in Shepherdstown, WV.