

Mattress on the F-r-e-e-w-a-y way way way way

By Adouria Macglashen

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...* Here's to elevating your social conscience. But don't raise your glass to high, else you find yourself under a bar to low...

Mattress n the Freeway

I see it every day,

The Mattress on the freeway

A tent, a cart, and some cardboard too.

Is this new?

The mattress on the freeway will always stay.

I pray for the one who sleeps on the mattress on the freeway.

Why does it seem so taboo?

A problem unsolved long overdue.

Doesn't it take your breath away?

What can be done about the mattress on the freeway?

THE POET SPEAKS: *I'm highly aware of my surroundings. "Mattress on the Freeway" is inspired by a mattress I saw while driving on the freeway. I live in downtown Los Angeles. Downtown is comprised of historic buildings, one-way streets, and makeshift shelters. It's hard*

to ignore the reality I see every time I leave my building. I want to use irony in a profound way that calls to the bigger issues. Jonathan Swift, Sophie Mousset, Anna Maria van Schurman, and Mary Shelley are all writers that inspire me (to name a few). Each of them, so ahead of their time and creating change whether or not they intended it. When I write I want to yield change. If that change is in one person (and their thinking) or a hundred people, it will have been worth it.

I think high school English nearly ruined poetry for me. Common core education defines poetry one way, it needs to fit in a box where the author can only be communicating one thing. I used to think poetry was so inefficient, using big words and elaborate phrases to say something simple. "Why not say what you mean?" I always thought. Now I think the opposite. Poetry is beautiful in its simplicity and ability to allude to greater ideas while being concise. The poet may be focused on conveying one specific thought or theme, but it can be received in so many different ways. I think that is very unique to poetry.

AUTHOR'S BIO: "Adouria is 22 and lives in Los Angeles. She is a poet who hopes to use irony in a way that pushes people to ask big questions."