



Within 2020

by Karimah

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Transcript

Where is your fire? Does it lie in your tongue, setting a blaze when you speak?

Or is it trapped, wreaking havoc beneath your feet!

Where is your fire? Did you pass it on, keep it warm for the generations to come??

Melodic and captivating, fire a means of purification, could these flames be a sign of what Nashville soon will be facing.

Winds whistling, bringing a cool breeze

the swaying of trees, picking up speed.

The lull before the storm

Destruction on the horizon as Nashville slept in.

Paralyzing fear, sirens penetrating the ear, but the tornado already here

Touched down, ripping through what took decades to build

Soon the damage to be revealed

Devastation and Disappointment filled the air.

Kinda surreal, like a scene from a movie

as people walked the streets, in disbelief

A truth hard to bear
What they've known their whole lives
No longer there

at a crossroads, a path that used to be clear
now filled with uncertainty and fear
Obstacles lay and wait
Heavy burden on the road that once paved the way.

Now awake the after math, more real
309 people injured and 25 killed
Mom and Pop shops destroyed
What they've worked a lifetime for.

Businesses no longer standing, some demolished
And North Nashville, barely being acknowledged
The news heavy out East and other parts of town
But over here, barely covered ground
Open wounds, leaving the community exposed
Disdain and bitterness continue to grow

Nowhere to go some refused to leave
their home shattered glass and the roof gone.
This was their life, their safe haven
and in one night all of that taken.
Surrounded by Darkness, 70,000 without power.

Outages for miles
NES said it would be a while, but little did they know, this
community a beacon of HOPE. Illuminating in the darkest of
places in this a newfound purpose.

Bruised but not broken spirit high.

Thankful, just to be alive.

Sometimes it takes things to fall apart to show how we can really help each other.

How strong you'd have to be, to shoulder this alone.

But collectively working we can build our home!

Leaving...

.....little messages, a reminder you must believe

we can move mountains with the faith of a mustard seed

Sometimes the picture, bigger than us

Resting in the hand of whom we trust

And

In the midst of chaos, you must have a strong foundation

Holding on with determination

Still some hesitation

Speaking signs of no trespassing

Do not ENTER without asking

Now, more vulnerable than ever

being preyed on by the crafty and clever.

Guards up, discernment on alert,

who is here to help, and who is here to hurt?

North Nashville already a target.

What was slow and steady, now officially put on the market.

Feelings of neglect, hopelessness and despair

The irony of the signs left

Almost as if our drive being put to the test

Your Perception, well that's your reality
Sometimes one gains a clear perspective after a calamity

Searching for clarity, it's clear that we will have to go to work
The resilience is what North Nashville is known for.
No time to sit and pity
Pulling up our bootstraps to save the city

No more time to come and spectate
We will let you know you are coming the WRONG way

We cleaned so much, we had to be stopped
So FEMA could assess the damage that had been done
The people working together as one

Now in darkness, that's how we grow
You couldn't recognize the light, if you've never seen it before
Soon as the power restored
Just one more thing to be thankful for. A reminder that
we got this
Lenses of transparency

Sowing seeds of humanity
Growing the tree of resiliency
It was the community who answered the call
Different organizations working for the body of it all.

Gideon sent an Army, with reinforcements
As donations poured in the people put that work in.
A long way from normal that's for certain, but the outpour made one thing clear, this is our
home and we ain't leaving here.

The History, The Culture, The Love...

don't sell out NORF smiling opportunist knocking on doors

Their tongue marinated with gentrification

making offers with no real plans of implementation For the

people by the people

It's time we speak up, cause only WE can save us....

Picking up the pieces, a long process

Trying to go back to normalcy, in the process

What seemed to be a promising road, now hindered progress.

Because soon after the tornado, Nashville

got its first positive test.

COVID claiming jobs, essentially laying off half the population

No warning, no signs, not the slightest indication

A new normal, to be established

No gatherings, no large crowds

Businesses, Restaurants, Churches, Schools now all closed down.

No time to play

These grounds no longer safe

Stay at HOME and Shelter in place

hard to deal with

When one isn't properly equipped

Some quite frankly just not used to it.

It seems panic and fear lead to desperation

Stores once fully stocked; shelves now vacant

Heavy precautions, extra sanitation

Hoarding for a few, now added stipulations

If we only took what we needed

Toilet paper, scarce, now a hot commodity
Taking more and more in larger quantities
COVID bringing a new reality
Most, everything now virtually.

Only essential businesses open, hospitals and grocery stores
Now being revealed the essential heroes
Those on the front line, for pennies on a dime
No true protection from the virus
Showing up every day, to protect us.
The new normal, I suppose
Mask and glove, now a permanent part of our wardrobe....

These symptoms synonymous with I can't breathe
another murder by the hands of the police.
Confined to our home, forced to watch
with no distractions
As the police kill another unarmed black man.
His knee digging into the groove of his neck
The one who swore to serve and protect

This feeling all too familiar, we've been here before!
Say his name!! George Floyd!!!

It's a new generation
combating the same old racism.
With conviction and passion
Nashville answered the call for action

Joining cities across America, protesting
Hand in hand together Bonded by the struggle, it's clear all we have is each other.

Remembering 8:46, as he lay
protesters do the same, as they demonstrate
a real powerful display
When black and white begin to relate
Marching for Justice, kneeling for peace
To put an end to police brutality

An end to a system that was never created with blacks in mind
A system keeping us enslaved by design
Do you understand what it means to be Black in America!
Why we must tell you Black Lives Matter, why we have value!

Will you hear us now? Will you listen?
No longer are we asking for permission!
Young and Fearless,

Nashville Feel like Selma,
like Ferguson, like KING.

Teens 4 Equality, called for a protest, expected a small crowd and thousands showed up.
No more time for silence, it's time to speak up!

No Justice, No peace
Our voice, a deadly weapon
The only thing they can't take from our possession.
And yet they still try.

Too many names, to fill the page

Why are we the only people expected to just take it? Turn the other cheek,
as another black man lays lifeless in the street

Mad as hell, aren't you angry? Aren't you tired?

Ask Yourself, When they see us

Do they really see us

Or what the media often portrays

Validation, to treat us this way. Why some may think we deserve it!

Our existence, our unity, a threat to their power Armed forces, in that they feel power Shielded,
hidden by protection

Force their only weapon

Now it's a battle

Right Versus Wrong

The line has been drawn Which side are you on?

No longer will we stand by,

This system, insurmountable

Time to hold the police accountable

The American dream, the black man's nightmare

Shackled to this idea of freedom, that is not there.

Until we are all free, we have work to do.

COVID numbers on the rise, mental health, and suicide.

Note to self:

sometimes you need a reminder to stay alive. No matter how

unconventional the method

What matters is the message

This may not have been the year that you were hoping, but for this year, you were chosen

You can sit back, reflect but don't run and hide
Remember to enjoy the ride.

Black votes on the rise. Your voice matters

The power of the battle

Fresh start or a sequel

The fate lies in the hands of the people

Nashville danced to the polls, record numbers

Turned out to make a difference

And the difference it made!

Surrounded by hypocrisy, it's time we take a Stand. We too deserve a say of what happens in this land.

We are the heroes of our own story

And soon we will see the glory

With a little sun light, rain and cultivation

We begin to see the fruits of our preservation

Planted, remember to stay rooted

The moment, all that matters is what you do with it.

Someone is counting on you, to fulfill your goal, your purpose

So when aiming for your goal do it with purpose, be intentional on purpose.

Christmas Day, a bomb exploded downtown
Just as we let our guard down.
So unexpected, a van left undetected
Why? Why now? The irony in it all, the year starting with fire and ending the same.

The scene feeling like overseas, a third world country
Rubble and debris, adorn the Nashville street
In this, a possible sign of what's to come in 2021

Tornado, COVID, death unemployment, sickness, we survived it
together, onward we must go,
our work not yet finished

"Freedom is a journey, and on Feb 13 1960 here in Nashville we
started that Journey, and that journey cannot end, because freedom is
not a destination it is strictly a place where you continue
to push for the best in humanity."

A revolutionary, a civil rights leader, a rider for freedom, an EXAMPLE. We lost a legend this
year, though he wouldn't want us to shed a tear, he'd want us to LIVE. Continue to fight for
freedom and Liberation. His legacy, our responsibility!!!

Don't fear the fire, you must become it. Embrace the heat, don't run from it.

2020, perfect vision, maybe not the year you had in mind
Could it be our vision, actually blind?
Forced to sit still, in this we found struggle, resistance
Everything that was supposed to break us, brought us close to who we really are,
This Road not easy, challenging and hard.
God leveled the playing field,

this year so many truths revealed
From the Genesis of your Revelation
This not our final destination.

So will you let the fire burn you or shine light within? Because after the purification comes strength!

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