

Record

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Abstract

Dr. Marsha Forest, an American educator who developed the concept of "Circles of Friends" in America wrote this poem entitled "be nice". She says this is not the time to 'be nice' but rather the time for 'passion and fire'. "... and inclusion won't happen because we are NICE...." **Keyword: Inclusion**

"be nice"

beware the person who says "be nice"
for "be nice" advice turns warm hearts
to ice ...

"be nice" is advice for those who
would beat
those with hot passion into retreat
it is always said in an arrogant voice
masked by the rhetoric of their
favourite word "choice"...

"be nice" means smile, it means fit in
"do it the way it's always been" -
don't show anger
don't show pain
"be nice" is the phrase of the arrogant
and vain ...

ghetto residents are told to "be nice"
for that they pay a terrible price
but the nice folks are being exposed
as they lie
as the bombs they drop pollute air,
sea and sky ...

this is no time for niceness my
friends
this is the time for passion and fire
time to expose the mask of the liar ...

the polite ones come in all shapes and
sizes
men and women -
black and white
their common voice says, "give up
your fight!"

*the forests are cut
the air is in pain
and acid stings our gentle rain
and acid stings our gentle rain ...*

none of my heroes were ever called
"nice"
their souls are filled with passion and
spice
and inclusion won't happen because
we are NICE ...
it means breaking down walls made
of centuries of ice
and ice will only melt with heat
with the motion of wheels,
with the rhythm of feet ...

the lines in the world are being
redrawn
and we are getting together and
strong
with poetry and song
a song that says we each belong ...

*the forests are cut
the air is in pain
and acid stings our gentle rain
and acid stings our gentle rain ...*

Marsha Forest, 1992