

Why Aren't We?

by HB

Why aren't we?

There are an uncountable number of things I should be doing

This.

very.

Instant.

The should-be's of

working on late homework,

responding to friends,

Thinking.

Of.

My future.

But am i?

No.

And I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one.

How many

late math papers,

waiting friends,

unplanned futures

do you think are out there?

why?

The mass of problems that plague this world,
climate change, racism, homophobia, misogyny,
and the fact that kids are being slaughtered
by their own classmates.

Why is nobody else climbing this bloody hill

To take down this monument of dept, death and deceit

These things should be universally abhorrent,

They should be struck down the moment their ugly head
emerges from their loathsome den

and I'm just a white boy

that checks almost every box for privilege,

who hasn't seen half of the atrocities that ravage our world

Compared to many i live in a small safe haven

that sure has its issues but what doesn't right?

I live shielded

in a society that covers up the very thing im being shielded from

Letting me ignore the beast

that ravenously takes black men

and imprisons them
Or the ghoul that makes women watch over their shoulders
every time they leave their house.
or the fiend that makes Asian students feel worthless
When not living up to the stereotypes that plague them

Because of who i am
Who I was born to
Who I wish to be
I have not had to experience these,
Only watch from out the window
And even then, i know things must change
Why does it seem
Not.
One.
Person.
Seems to be sucked into this endless vortex
this gyre of problems
that seems to conquer anything foolish enough to approach it?

But wait,
Maybe that's the problem.
Maybe nobody is willing to sail into this whirlpool
for fear they will be sucked down
and have left no more impact than a small wake that quickly fades
too fast for anyone to even realize it was there.
But surely it can't swallow us all.

Surely if we just tried hard enough,
were smart enough,
and if we read the wind,
we should be able to find a path through it
and get to the beautiful warm shallows
where we find nothing but a cool breeze
And the water is so still
There is not even a pull of the tides.