

## Melting: the American Dream

If you grew up, as I did

Under the spell  
on the ledge  
in fear

of the American Dream

Unaware of it's

underpinning

and sought by fierce civil  
rights folks taking no  
delay, energetic public  
sector job growth, a  
strong labor movement  
raising the floor, federally  
subsidized highways to  
speed commerce coast to  
coast.

That nourished  
Starved  
Mystified

us  
in Pax Americana (an  
America keeping the  
peace hostage)

Where belief in  
Meritocracy  
Cause and effect  
Bigotry  
The irrational

promised  
insinuated  
threatened to swallow

prosperity  
and individual and family happiness

Then

The American Dream

Summoned  
Locked out  
Reduced complexity

A vision of true  
democracy.

There always was in the  
American Dream

A fallacy  
a toxin  
a hope  
a white man with a  
clipboard

In the  
dream inside the dream  
brand  
formula

We paddled our ladders just as fast as we could past the floating bodies.

And the Dream

paid off for some by some  
others  
on their knees, and

meant no limit to the pie.  
Magic pie made without  
magic oversells the pie.  
Sells the pie three times  
over—sells out

if willing to pay the price  
2 jobs for the wages of 1½

Your share  
My share

as long as the record  
never mentioned the dead  
it took to get the dream  
uneasy in their graves

Nervously eyed pie never  
like and like

Instead, wolf tickets  
("white ice must be  
colder")

and products sold as  
promise to spotless  
redemption  
in land grabs  
oil and shale no futures  
to divide to conquer  
politics  
"colorblind" bias  
winners take all spoils  
except in  
wars of choice

shareholders spin rinse  
Great Expectations

One day, "the map, not  
the facts, disintegrate"

and all that is solid

melts

The Dream melts

lies in a puddle of "pious  
fraud"

and melts

The Dream melts

all that we don't want to  
share with non-  
shareholders

The Dream melts

because on a shared

planet sums shrink  
zero to minus zero

The Dream melts

and freezes budgets  
turns hearts into  
underground rivers  
and minds into artificial  
lakes in gated  
communities;

The dream melts

no tax zones of pay per  
view sidewalks and  
selective science; (science  
for me but not for you)

melting,

and we are them that got  
us

melted.