

# How Did It Happen?

By buddy gray

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i don't know how it happened...many events, Witnesses, years...  
But more important--it has...

i don't desire to be happy unless happiness  
is a universal right

i don't care to be at peace when teenagers  
of the third world must learn to  
shoot anti-aircraft guns at American invading planes

i don't want to be acceptable as long as rape, racism/sexism,  
multinational profit,  
CIA destabilization of governments, joblessness,  
homelessness are acceptable

i don't intend to be calm, pleasant and  
likable if the stink of injustice must be raised

i don't expect to be patient until there is  
"HOUSING NOW" FOR ALL

i don't know how to be quiet when our  
voices may be the only counter to  
the Rich's media controls, limits, inversions of the  
truth

i don't think about being respectful  
when hunger exists in the land of plenty  
poverty exists in this nation of wealth  
uneducation and ill health run  
rampant in this place of advanced technology  
and toxic waste ravages this once-beautiful country  
now owned by a handful

i don't plan to be non-disruptive of the  
"order" around us

i don't yet choose to be a carpenter  
if nuclear bombs production still steals the housing  
construction budget

As long as churches and synagogues and  
temples do reverent rituals for rights  
and speak in pious platitudes of peace and take no angry  
action  
that stops American Business as usual to end  
homelessness, imperialism

As long as business lunches still happen in the glass condos  
looking out over the homeless and hungry on the cold  
streets 10 stories below

As long as the City Fathers can work 8 hours a week for  
\$35,000 and do little to learn of the peoples  
problems over whom they rule

i fully intend to dream of happiness and peace when I sleep. food, clothing,  
shelter, medical care, education, equality, green space and peace for all...

And meanwhile, awake to live as unacceptably, non-  
calmly unpleasantly  
dislikably  
impatiently  
loudly  
disrespectfully  
and disruptively  
and as contagiously  
collectively as i am able  
as long as is necessary