

manzanar

it was in the year of 1942
when the radio blared out the news:
pearl harbor's gone down
the word's all over town;
that they're moving us
all of us
young and old too.

what hypocrisy coming from FDR's lips;
just who was he trying to kid?
to tell us it's for our own good,
so they say;
but then why were our freedoms
and rights stripped away?

our homes were destroyed
our people harassed
with war propaganda
we surely won't last -
lying to justify bigotry...

"i remember manzanar"
by grandmother's words ring out loud
why was it only the japanese
whose lives were all turned upside down?

the life in those camps was a haunting nightmare
barbed wire deterrents
gate guards at the rear
we had to picket for sugar and milk
while the 442nd, in Europe, got killed.

the time finally came when they let us out
our houses and property
were all in the past
re-entrance into the real world
taught us how -
post-war prejudice
fear, hatred lasts

there's not been a traitor
in our midsts found to date
we're american citizens;
they still make mistakes -
thinking we're part of the enemy...

now those that remember
are ancient and few;
they've made reparations,
the right thing to do
but lee iacocca is stirring the pot
and bashing japan

is a sport now that's hot

they say that it won't
ever happen again
but how do you know
with this climate we're in?
so let them all know
both the blacks and the whites
you're americans too
and you won't shirk a fight.

(thanks to GT & L. Wong, T. Watada, P. Wu, Y. Kochiyama &
J. Sakamoto for guidance)

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Dear Yuri,

As promised, please see the lyrics for the song you wanted
to print, which you have my permission to do. Please let me know
who will be in charge of the sound on 2/23 so I can consult
with him or her, as Terry may also have Bill Asai on bass, which
may require additional planning. My telephone number once again
is 219-3792 (day) and 254-0109 (night). Thanks again
and speak to you soon.

- John Seetoo

