

Against Censorship  
By Ashley B

How much longer must free speech be restricted? To what extent will the censors rule our lives? How can we be truly free with our art and song subject to oppression? While our ideas and pleas are suppressed? How can we live truly in liberty if even now, among the white columns and pearly fountains of Washington DC, these self-appointed authoritarians classify and critique our voices for social suitability?

Surely they know better what is good for us!  
Surely they know what is better for our society!  
Surely they alone are immune to corrupting powers!  
Surely only they are capable of independent thought and critical analysis!  
Surely the right is theirs to dictate self-expression!  
Surely to hide something makes it cease to exist!  
Surely censorship is the answer!

Not to mention the hypocrisy – the hypocrisy! – of their exclusive ability to make judgment into law!

□ the tyranny! □ the oppression!

No longer will we allow our most basic right to be repressed;  
No longer will our very voices be forcibly stifled;  
No longer will differences in opinion be judged as right or wrong;  
No longer will we be fined for speaking our minds;  
No longer will this smug overseer preside over us;  
No longer will his whip crack across our minds and courage;  
No longer will Washington exercise its power over freedom of expression;  
No longer will select officials hum hurry and flit toward anything potentially objectionable;  
No longer will they rush to raise a screen before it!

Will you help free yourself and others?  
Will you open your heart to humanity?  
Will you accept its diversity and occasional vulgarity?  
Will you make judgments that are dynamic and perceptive?  
Will you encourage others to do the same?

Be gone censors!  
Be gone this attack upon our last defense against the corrupt!  
Be gone this attack upon our ability to be heard!  
Be gone restrictions on free speech!  
Be gone restrictions on human emotional need!  
Be gone restrictions on the very foundation of democratic civilization!  
Be gone censorship!  
Be gone!

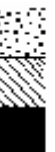


Christina L

Mixed Media

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