

at last

francisca sánchez – august 2009

our children say
the time has come
to engage our minds remodel our brains
let our neurons communicate across 21st century terrains
and build new paths to enlightenment
time to reach across place and memory
to call open unknown doors by their hidden name
and spark electric life
where before only dark lay claim

the time has come
our elders say
the time has surely come
don't you agree
to emancipate our unlimited potential
it's not too late to speak truth
to a world distorted by hate
and dying of loneliness in a hall of mirrors
where every pain is contained
by the pretense we maintain

still like entangled particles
when all is said and done
we share an intimate connection
that does not easily permit linear disassociation
our lives are spiral galaxies
weaving together streams of thought
with the power to liberate our unfinished dreams
dreams too often caught in the fatal curves
of an unexamined consciousness

the time has come
as carlos said
to throw not just a pebble
but a rock or two or fistfuls
into the pond of justice why not
and set the ripples flowing inward to lift us up
above the plains of amber grain
so we can swim among the endless clouds
and like jimi kiss the freedom sky

the time has come
to unleash our voices
and sing fine as the supremes,
the queen of soul, the king of pop
or even the new supreme sister sonia
take your pick
whatever makes you MOVE
until we rain HIP HOP on amerika
and dare to write our own laws of physics and aspiration
can you picture such a thing
can you bring your heart and mind to believe
that we own the ancient alchemy
to turn what if into what is

once upon a time
not that long ago
we did not permit the tyranny of doubt
to chain us to hegemony
we knew our destiny
and turned hearing into action
when martin said the fierce urgency of now
must press us to seek a future
where the many might avoid a cognitive holocaust
and not one child more be lost
on the wind-tossed sea of mediocrity

once upon a time
our values were the map we used
to guide our paths and we were fearless
in our quest to reach the mountain top
even when we could not see it ourselves
we stood side by side with trust and relied
on each other to push us on
when by ourselves we might have stopped

that was once upon a time
seems like way back in time
and now the time has come round again
to look inside our hearts
and find the spark that leads to a whole new mind
that ignites the dark we've been living in

the time has come
to unbind our children's minds
rewind history and leave the bell curve forever
the hell behind cold gray ashes
of a nation's shame laid finally to rest
the cost we've paid has been too stark
wouldn't you say
a mark pressed like a trail of tears
burning furrows deep in our democracy

the time has come
to turn the tide of history
now in this time
this time of yes we can and yes we did
now in this time
when his story has become our story
we can recapture our moral strength
and inspire those we teach those we lead
feed their passion until it ignites
and with brains on fire
achieve higher than anyone could anticipate

in this time in our time
it's past time to end that tired debate
about if or perhaps or someday
and one way or another go directly
to what our students require of us

in this time in our time
we can rekindle the embers
that made us founding members
of a special equation
high expectations plus possibility yield
results squared to a higher power

in this time in our time
we can fashion a new state of matter
invent a new future where we aspire to joy
to a better fate that we control that we create
because we ourselves were created
for this one purpose
to rise above the mud and mire
and motivate our spirits past despair
even if we have to levitate to situate our work
In our students' hearts and lives with pride

now in this time
we can restore confidence
and hope denied for centuries past
achieve the incredible if we focus
on the miraculous and great
that resides in each of us
because we will not be doomed by our dna

and last
now in this time in our time
word to all the haters
and 21st century slave traders
who profit off our children's hurt
watch your backs
we've re-membered our community
and definitively put our brains on blast at last

at last
the time has come
in this time in our time
the time has come
at last