

You Are Like Dogs

mirrimirri-nhu

dog-likeyou

(A Prose Poem for Two Voices Based on Matthew 15.21-28)

This passage is a disturbing
Uncomfortable
Insight into
The embedded racism
Within Jesus' contemporary society.

It was so embedded
Jesus speaks it
In this social encounter
Without reflection
Or insight into
His spoken words.

His mission was
Selective
Exclusive
Based on
Race and identity
Not on inclusive love.

'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.'

mirrimirri-nhu
You are like dogs.

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Raise you Voice
Say what needs to be said
Don't be put off
By the righteous
And their privileged
Blindness
The embedded certainty
That they are the chosen

mirrimirri-nhu
You are like dogs.

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Raise your Voice
Ask for what is yours
What you need
Do not allow them
Recourse to deafness
And ages old racism
The status quo
The way it is.

mirrimirri-nhu
You are like dogs.

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Raise your Voice
Stand your ground
Make your words heard
Your meaning clear
Your need is urgent
Not to be rebuffed
Ignored
Belittled.

mirrimirri-nhu
You are like dogs.

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Raise your Voice
Touch a nerve
Unhinge the privilege
Of a considered opinion
An accepted truism
Buried in ideology
Traditionally correct
For those it protects.

mirrimirri-nhu
You are like dog

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Raise your Voice
Even the camp dogs
Eat the unwanted scraps
The bits lying on the ground
Left by those
Who eat first
Are we not
More than they?

mirrimirri-nhu
You are like dogs.

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Raise your Voice
Make them hear
The sounds of ancestors
From time before they came here
Crying for justice
Witnessing genocide
Know that you belong
Here on country

Wirray-nhu mirrimirri
You are not dogs.

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Raise your Voice
Make it known
Convince the naysayers
Receive what is yours
Healing
Wholeness
Belonging

Respect

Wirray-nhu mirrimirri
You are not dogs.

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Raise your Voice
For your little ones
For those yet to be
For those who have never left
Healing comes
In a Voice spoken
A listening heart
Hope restored.

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Mayiny-nhu
You are persons.

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Raise your Voice
This is the beginning
Opening the way
Repairing the fracture
In our personhood
Our nationhood
Our past
Our future

(clap sticks – 3 times)

Mayiny-yanhinya
We are persons.

(clap sticks – 3 times)