



Are You Kidding Me?

A POEM: Remembering the Homeless on: JUNETEENTH

Abraham Lincoln wrote it; the Emancipation Proclamation; on January 1, 1863 they were free. But for two and one half years black folk in Texas, didn't get the news of freedom. No mail, no courier or town crier on horse- back. When I learned the meaning of Juneteenth, I said: **ARE YOU KIDDING ME?** The Proclamation had been signed, sealed, but for the black slaves in Texas, it was not delivered. For the black Africans shipped to America, sold as slaves stock piled in Texas that declaration meant nothing. They were still singing:

♪ "Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home?"

Singing a prophecy they were; the freedom deed had been signed twenty-four months prior, but Black folk in Texas didn't know it. No one told them. **ARE YOU KIDDING ME?** Took that long "coming for to carry" those people from the whips, the chains, the hot tar baths; tree swings by their necks into the freedom they only hoped and dreamed would come? Some body was **KIDDING**, cooked the books; sat on that get them 'out of jail to freedom card.'

Many of our **HOMELESS** have tasted freedom. They had houses, paid taxes, had community centers that welcomed them, part of the all. But now, their promised help, a ten year, 2007 proclamation funded by Abe Lincoln's government is misappropriated, redundantly wasted, shifted, diverted; what now? Some of the homeless citizen never see it, some never even hear about it. The **HOMELESS** folks should be singing:

♪ "Swing low sweet chariot...."

NO, some of our homeless are white folks, they don't want to sing that!
Yet we keep having reviews, sessions, study group, summits; more of the same!

Eventually Texas got the news and in a New York second, those Texas Black Slaves standing in fields dropped the hoes. Black- women slaves stopped being "Massa's hoe"; started down the dusty roads. No homes, no money, no native name they could recall; never to be enslaved again; **THEY WERE NOT KIDDING!** Mississippi only ratified and signed their copy of the proclamation in 2011; **I KID YOU NOT!** Justice for the **HOMELESS** folks is here: **God is not KIDDING!**