



WITH MY EYES

by Brenda Shoss
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My prayer tonight is for all who
lie down in chains and cages.

Alone and afraid on concrete floors.
Soundless screams behind metal.
Locked in rooms, forever.

I feel their fear arise in my soul
Ancient yet new...
A primal flame burning against
the walls of my heart.

I want to scream an endless note,
Loud and true:

Clubbed. *Forgotten.*
Dismembered. *Forgotten.*
Gassed. *Forgotten.*
Beaten. *Forgotten.*
Burned. *Forgotten.*
Electrocuted. *Forgotten.*
Abandoned. *Forgotten.*
Poisoned. *Forgotten.*
Skinned. *Forgotten.*
Shot. *Forgotten.*
Caged. *Forgotten.*
Shackled. *Forgotten.*
Murdered. *Forgotten.*

With my eyes, they will be seen.
With my voice, they will be heard.
With my hands, they will know comfort.
With my action, they will be free.

Dear God, fill their oppressors
with mercy and empathy.
Dear God, instill compassion
where there is apathy.
Replace horror with grace.
Bloodshed with healing.

Restore all humans and animals
to their natural place.
Liberate all humans and animals
from greed, violence and hate.

So that tonight and evermore,
ALL may lie down to sleep
unchained uncaged free