A child hunches hungrily in a corner
Awaiting his moment to grab some bread
A baby pup cowers from his master
With the scars he bears upon his head
A young girl walks the streets at night
To make the money for her pimp to keep
For this is the ugliness that we reap – as society sleeps.
A homeless, hungry young man robs a grocery store to eat
Armed with a gun, he shoots the store-keep.
He runs away but is cornered by police.
And dies in a bloodied heap on the street – as society sleeps.
An old woman has used the last of her SS check;
Finds change in the room as she hunts and pecks.
Goes to grocery and what she can afford is but a speck,
So she buys a can of pet food to sustain her from death –
As society sleeps.
A young, tired mom and her babies are on the street
They go to the shelter but there is no place for them to sleep
So they find a dark lot and sleep on the concrete
And the woman she cries, their futures are bleak…as society sleeps.
Little girl lost, her heartbeat nearly gone
Confined to a bed, respirator turned on
Waiting for a transplant that never will come
Her mother sits by helpless, no insurance for one...as society sleeps.
200 school girls kidnapped by Boco Haram
Terrorized and survive horrors as best they can
While a White House hash tag is the US’s stand
No hope on the horizon for youth in this land – as society sleeps
It is the price we pay of a world so cold and unkempt
The price of a society whose morals are bent
And the payment must be made for an unknown debt
All to be collected by an unknown lot, before they draw their last breath, at death
And its death, they do pray for, the ones who pay
With each societal slap, they feel anger and dismay,
A looming downward spiral of "area gray"
With no glimmer of light to lead the way.
So open your eyes, people, awaken to the light
It will not be long before you see their plight
Of brothers and sisters living through the incessant night
Who are waiting for a sign that there is meaning to their life
By opening your eyes it is not to take the blame
But to act upon what you can to make positive change
Take the slowest steps, to make modest gains
It is this way it grows, the moral brain.
And yes, the brain, you see is connected to the heart
Maybe if you can think it, you will feel it smart
And take a collective ahhh, we have done our part…
But you see, my friends, there is no stopping once you start
The collective conscience when awaken must see
That the blindness we battle is within thee
While it’s easier to turn our heads and say, "not me"
There will be a day of judgment, just wait and see
For while you buy your cars and vote your pocketbook’s ideal,
Tread the path of the greedy thinking you've got a great deal,
And keep your mouth shut and think that the atrocities aren't real,
You have given up your humanity for a price – and your soul for a steal
So open your mouths and hearts while there's time; don’t fall into the societal line.
But rather, stand tall in a line all of your own, defend the downtrodden with the new conscience you've grown.
And dream, sweet one, dream, of the new day coming, when people follow you,
And the minority voice is loudly humming.
Make change when you can and never forget
That baby steps often are a giant’s first steps.
You see, like a cancer, the blindness does creep
Spreads from parent to child, with generational leaps
Only a good dose of reality’s touch, awakens them from sleep
For this is the ugliness that we reap – as society sleeps.