

The Book of Cop

Don Baratta

In the beginning was the land and it was fair to look upon; but fairest of all was the land of CA which bounded on the west. Blessed was Ca with abundance of riches, but also she was cursed. For there descended on her great hordes of robbers and plagues of bandits and all manner of evil men who wished her harm. The people there were troubled and grew weary and cried for deliverance.

And it came to pass that a young man named COP saw this and his heart was sore so that he called out to ask what he might do. Then God came and said to him “Go thou and cleanse the land of this evil and I will make of thee a saint.”

So COP took him to the academies and sat at the feet of great teachers and learned much of the minds and ways of men. Surely he gained the knowledge to bring peace to the man-killers and rioters and the crying widows and also the man who displayeth himself even to the very world.

Also he heaped upon himself knowledge of the law of the land so that whatever his hand findeth to do would find five-to-four approval in the hearts of the great judges. Verily COP striveth to such end that he excelled in the turning of cheeks which is the greatest of learnings.

So it came to pass in the fullness of time that he girded his loins and donned his robes and placed wax upon his sandals and made himself ready. And he cried out to his fellow men: “Behold, I will bring peace unto you and lift from you the burden of the bandit and the robber, the rapist and the murderer, without fear of favor or hurt.

And at first the people rejoiced and said if he would do this thing they would raise his hire price to one-per-cent in the annum, only that he must give up two of his holidays for fairness in the bargain.

But later the people grumbled in their hearts and thought again upon this thing. First there came to him the men of the lowest class and they looked with hatred upon COP for fear that the badge would hang heavy upon COP's robes. Also there came the men of the middle class and placed their feet upon the desk and proclaimed their love for COP but they hideth their daughters from COP's sight for fear of marriage and disgrace. The men of the highest class came not at all what had they to do with such things?

And still COP was steadfast and said that he would cleanse the act in the land.

So the people assembled and sought to encourage him, so they called him "pig" and other names out of fondness. There cometh the felon to call him sadist, and after him the student to call him fascist and even the children who said his mother had no morals and his father knoweth him not. Finally there came the outlanders to call him racist in that he treateth them unkindly for their father's sake. They said unto him that he knoweth his own mother which was an evil thing and also he knoweth himself which was a miracle.

And still COP was steadfast and stood firm eschewing all temptations.

Then he was called upon by a 415 and he strode forth to battle and all who saw him drew back and became amazed and covered their mouths with their hands. All save a grandmother who was overtaken with wine and who giveth to him a belly full of buckshot, so he lay dying amidst the dog offal on the back porch.

Then came God to fulfill his promise and to make of COP a saint. And COP wagged his beard and said unto him: "Verily thou art too late. Thou makest the saint after the man has died. Thy people need a live saint to do this work."

And God answered "No. Saints I have sent them before...hmm, perhaps a another flood."