

### **"With this freedom"**

"Lady Justice, I come before you as my countrymen lay dying in the streets, not wounded by the bullets of soldiers and not left to starve as a result of war. I watch as a silent genocide sweeps over our country, a reality u choose to ignore.

I listen to the cries of women raped by those who are supposed to protect this country we call our home. I hear the screams of children who long for an education promised to all. I distinctly ignore the whispers of the men who are down on their knees, praying for an honest day's work and yet, you say nothing.

I taste the warm tears of the mothers who have the blood of their children dripping from their callused hands, their breathlessness a result of an indescribable pain. You stand by and offer them no consolation.

I feel the frustration of those who fought so selflessly to give us this country we call our home, I empathise with all who were promised a better tomorrow by those who lead us today and instead of equality, again you choose sides.

What justice have you given us with this freedom we fought so tirelessly for but struggle to keep today?"

"You come before me with your problems and yet you have not one solution?

You seek justice against those who abuse my system yet you condone their actions through the silence you keep so well.

You have nothing and no one to fear but yourselves for I am merely who you allow me to be. You tip my scales and weigh them heavily with the burdens of the past instead of seeking justice against those who wrong you today.

I may be blind but it is you who cannot see the road to redemption, follow not in the footsteps of your forefathers but tread a new path for those who are still to follow.

You look to me for salvation that I cannot deliver for I am merely your reflection, look not at others and point at their faults, rather look in the mirror and decide who we will become."

W.L. Carlisle 4-24-11