

Inclusion is Not Exclusion

Marsha Forest (1994)

Inclusion is the future.

Inclusion is belonging
to one race, the human race.
Inclusion is a basic human right.
Inclusion is struggling
to figure out
how to live with one another.

Inclusion is not
something you do
to someone or for someone.
It is something we do
with one another.
Inclusion is not a person.
"the inclusion kid."
Not a program.
Not an adjective.
Not an add on.
Inclusion is a noun.

Inclusion is
not something we do a little of.
It either is or isn't.
It is not a fad. Not a bandwagon.
It is a trend, similar to democracy.
"With liberty and justice for all."
All means all.
No but's about it!

Inclusion
is the opposite of exclusion.
Inclusion is not exclusion.

Inclusion is fair play,
common sense, common decency,
hard work.
Inclusion is elegant in its simplicity
and like love, awesome in its complexity.

Inclusion is
a battle cry,
a parents cry,
a child's cry to be
welcomed, embraced,
cherished, prized,
loved as a gift,
as a wonder,
a treasure.

Inclusion is
not spending more money on
building more prisons,
mental hospitals, nursing homes,
group homes,
but investing in real homes,
real life, real people
all people.

Inclusion is
pain, struggle, joy, tears
grief, mourning, celebration!

Inclusion is the ship that
isn't even built yet.
It is a new ship.
One we will build together.

Inclusion is
like a good jazz combo,
like an orchestra
disciplined to play melody
in harmony.
Inclusion is
a kaleidoscope of diversity .
bits of color, sounds, shapes, sizes.

Inclusion is The future.

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