

## How does the virus spread?

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While the poor in America  
continue to sicken, continue to die,  
memories of funerals outpace  
memories of births  
in structurally adjusted Africa.  
While viruses invade the poor  
of India, Nigeria, Vietnam,  
China and Indonesia,  
virus skulks hunted in healthy bodies  
in the countries that once ruled the South,  
in the countries whose banks and manufacturers  
cherry-pick desperate lands for factories, loans, or  
foreclosures,  
seek their lifeblood profits  
in the labors and veins of the poor.

The needs of investors and Presidents  
draw red ink and black ink  
from the wealth of our bloodstreams,  
scribble “life” here,  
“death” there,  
profits here, losses there,

debts most everywhere,  
write cutbacks, write wars.  
They stifle the joys of transitions,  
those festivals of the oppressed,  
with structural adjustments  
and good governance,  
pretending to nurture  
healthy futures through healthy business,  
healthy lives  
through breaking  
hopes.

This is the way the virus spreads,  
this is the way the virus spreads,  
this is the way the virus spreads,  
not only behavior  
but their whimpering need  
for profits,  
evermore profits,  
evermore,  
until we end it.

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