



the gospel of james baldwin
chapter & verse

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It is very nearly impossible... to become an educated person in a country so distrustful of the independent mind. - James Baldwin

■ Yéil Ya-Tseen *Sitka, Alaska*

Ch'a tlákw áwé k'idéin has du een yoo x'axaatánk, áx yátx'i; x'éigaa át has du een yóo kaxanikk. Ch'a óosk'i aax has sateeyidáx áwé has altínx aadé yéi jixaneiyí yé, ka wooch een yoo x'atudli.átk áwé daa sá yéi xwliyaakw yá ax ji.eetí tin. Átx sayeeyí át áwé x'éigaa át, ka hél yaadachóonx kaa ée dultóow wé dleit kaa shgóon yeex'. Tlél daat has tooshtí wáa sá at kawdayaayi yá haa aani kaa. Yéi áwé ax tundataani: Haa Shuká Aa Hás áx has kayawdlíxút'i áwé áx yaa ntoo.aadí yé, aagáa áwé has du kagéiyi yis, Haa Dachxánx'i Yán, kayagaxtoolxóot' haa yéi jineiyí tin. Yéi áwé aadé yaa kushunagúdi yé. Ch'u uwayáa wutusiveen goodáx sá wutuwa.aat, aagáa áwé Haa Léelk'u Hás at wuskóowu tin át gaxtoo.áat. Hél haa gaxdus.haa. Ch'a koogéiyi yoo s aklinikk aadé has awilyeixí yé Waashdan Kwáan, yá Shukát Ku.oo aani has aawatáw. Dáanaa jeedáx áwé has gashgeikch, yéi áwé wé Waashdan Kwáan jooní: Idakát át Shukát Ku.oo jeedáx has aawas'él. All the time I speak carefully with my chidren; I tell them the truth. From the time they were little ones they watch the way I work, and we converse about what my artwork represents. It is an important thing, truth, and at the School of the White People they do not teach directly. People don't pay attention to what happened on our land. This is how I think of it: Our Ancestors cut the trail for us, where we are walking now, and then we are going to cut the trail for Our Little Grand-children. This is leadership. It is as if we see where we came from, and then we are going to walk with the knowledge of Our Ancestors. We will not be erased. They tell the story carelessly, of how they made America, how the lands of Indigenous peoples were stolen. Money has made them greedy, and that is how the American Dream is: everything was ripped out of the hands of the Indigenous peoples.

Kaa ée dultóowu ganeixx sitee. Kaa ée dultóow latseenx sitee. Kaa ée dultóowu kaa jín woosh alshát átx sitee. Wooch kát kaduchákx; hél aax gaxdutee. Kusaxán tin kaa kagéiyi yis wooch een yéi jineiyí áwé. Ch'a tleix wooch naxtoohéin! Teaching people is salvation. Teaching people is strength. Teaching people is a thing that holds peoples' hands together. It is piled upon itself; it is not taken from. It is working together with love for the benefit of people. Let's share it forever!

- Nicolas Galanin

TAKE ACTION

Believe in Black Futures?

» Support Black mothers.

The Free Black Women's Library/ Sister Outsider Relief Grant

Mutual aid funding initiative to honor and nurture single Black mother artists, writers and cultural workers. Women who pour their creativity into their children and the community. They often work off the books and can't file for unemployment or other social services. The money goes towards groceries, rent, medicine, body products, art supplies - necessities to help them thrive.

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Label: Sister Outsider

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It demands great spiritual resilience not to hate the hater whose foot is on your neck, and even greater miracle of perception and charity not to teach your children to hate. - James Baldwin



people—and most of these were not Americans—who had any real desire to be free. Freedom is hard to bear. It can be objected that I am speaking of political freedom in spiritual terms, but the political institutions of any nation are always menaced and are ultimately controlled by the spiritual state of that nation. We are controlled here by our confusion, far more than we know, and the American dream has therefore become something much more closely resembling a nightmare, on the private, domestic, and international levels. Privately, we cannot stand our lives and dare not examine them; domestically, we take no responsibility for (and no pride in) what goes on in our country; and, internationally, for many millions of people, we are an unmitigated disaster. Whoever doubts this last statement has only to open his ears, his heart, his mind, to the testimony of—for example—any Cuban

to be an American Negro, this is who he is—a kidnapped pagan, who was sold like an animal and treated like one, who was once defined by the American Constitution as "three-fifths" of a man, and who, according to the Dred Scott decision, had no rights that a white man was bound to respect. And today, a hundred years after his technical emancipation, he remains—with the possible exception of the American Indian—the most despised creature in his country.

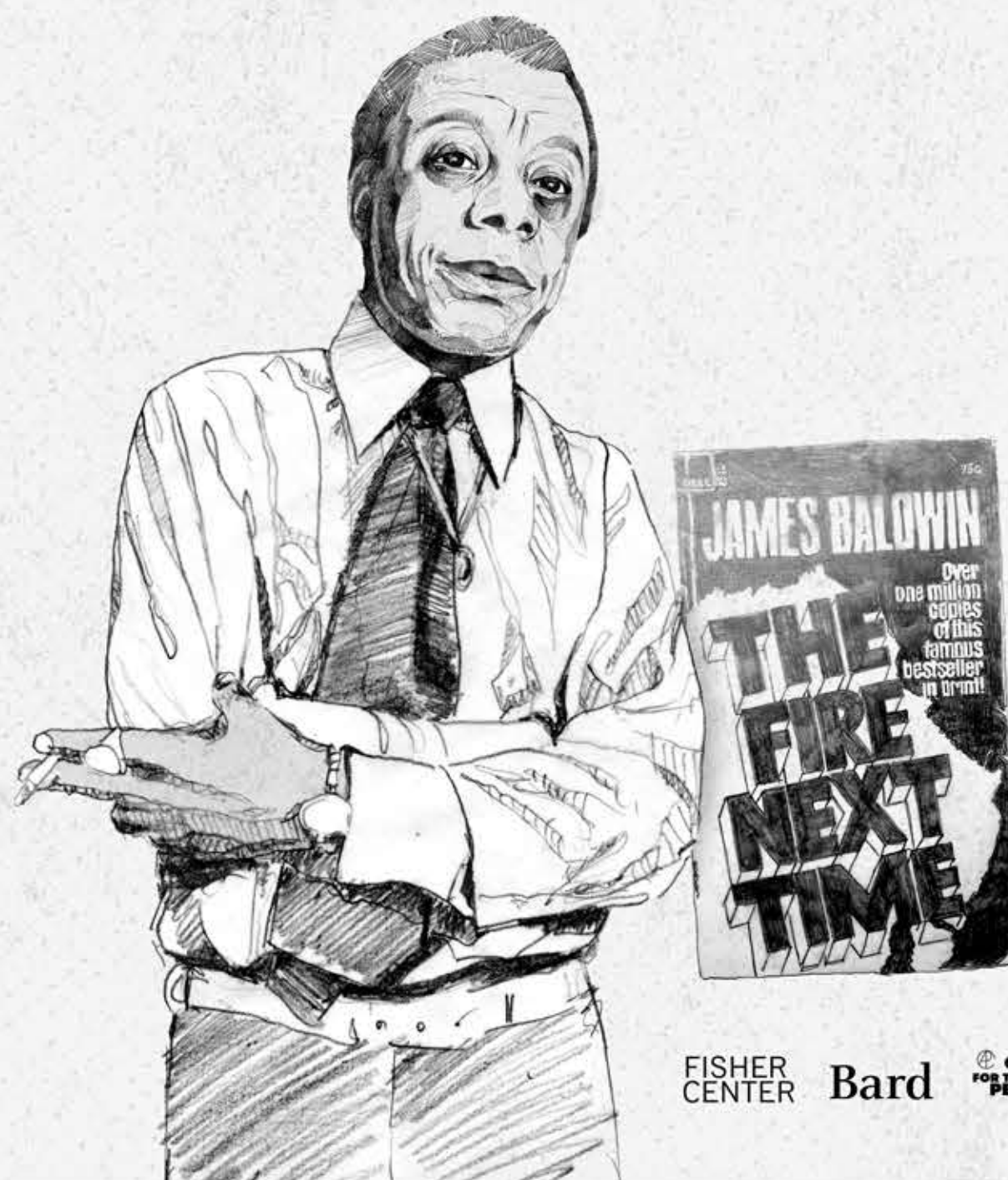
SHOUT IT OUT! OR SAY IT OUT LOUD.

BALDWIN BALDWIN 1-2-3
SAY IT PLAIN LIKE A-B-C
NO LABEL, NO SLOGAN, NO PARTY
CAN MAKE YOU FREE
NO RELIGION, NO COLOR, NO FLAG
WORTH MORE THAN ME!!!!

I am not a ward of America. I'm not an object of missionary charity, I am one of the people who built the country. - James Baldwin

What will happen to all that beauty then?

I could also see that the intransigence and ignorance of the white world might make that vengeance inevitable—a vengeance that does not really depend on, and cannot really be executed by, any person or organization, and that cannot be prevented by any police force or army: historical vengeance, a cosmic vengeance, based on the law that we recognize when we say, "Whatever goes up must come down." And here we are, at the center of that arc, trapped in the gaudiest, most valuable, and most improbable water wheel the world has ever seen. Everything now, we must assume, is in our hands; we have no right to assume otherwise. If we—and now I mean the relatively conscious whites and the relatively conscious blacks, who must, like lovers, insist on, or create, the consciousness of the others—do not falter in our duty now, we may be able, handful that we are, to end the racial nightmare, and achieve our country, and change the history of the world. If we do not now dare everything, the fulfillment of that prophecy



Inspired by James Baldwin's truth-telling treatise on justice in America, *The Fire Next Time*, and our endlessly changing world. Chapter & Verse: The Gospel of James Baldwin is a 21st century ritual tool kit for justice. A call for revolution. A gift during turbulent times.

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VOTE