



To Our Founding Fathers

So you claimed you could found
a new nation here based on your
Declaration of Independence
while you slaughtered most
of the original inhabitants?

And to build your new economy
you bought and stole enslaved people,
packed them into ships,
chained them together in their own excrement,
wrenched from each other
husband, wife,
mother, child?

So you forced them to
clear land, plant crops, harvest and ship,
to profit you, their owners?
Oh, did I forget to say,
stripped them of their humanity,
their very humanness?

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, all of you,
why did you think you could own other human beings?
Because they had dark skin?
Used drums to speak?
Were frightened to death?

And here three hundred years later
we still struggle to understand
the incomprehensible.

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