

## FOURTH PLACE

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### I HEAR AMERICA CRYING

When I think of our great country, I begin to see tears, smell fear,  
hear crying,  
I hear the cries of the unemployed, searching, hoping, surviving,  
I hear crying in the voices of babes who never were,  
I hear frustration in the cries of those fighting against prejudice,  
hated, partiality,  
I hear Americans crying in pain, sickness, disease,  
I hear the cry of the worker let down time and time again by our  
country's great leaders,  
I hear the cries of families who are torn apart by hatred, deceit,  
I hear the shackled cry of the addict, struggling, stumbling, lost,  
I hear our country crying for help as nuclear warfare lingers,  
haunts, petrifies,  
I hear the cries of millions living in poverty, lonely, hungry,  
forgotten,  
I hear the cries of nothingness lingering from the hearts of failed  
achievers, saddened, not lessened,  
I hear cries of the wealthy, incomplete, masked, desirous,  
I hear America crying for the pride, dignity, respect that used to be.