

# The Bell

Listen, as it reverberates  
for Sean

fifty times—  
once for every bullet  
propelled from a policeman's gun,

then fifty times fifty times  
for how many others  
over so many years.  
Let *our* Bell ring true:

You'll find no justice here.

"Fatally flawed police work, but not criminal"  
Judge Arthur Cooperman proclaims.  
His Honor does not seem to comprehend:  
Fatally flawed police work *is* criminal.  
And so is a fatally flawed judgment  
(though this, by now, is too well-known).

So I decide upon a proclamation of my own:

Let our Bell sound  
loud enough  
to call out fifty times fifty  
times fifty, and even more  
as many powers of fifty  
as we require, marching  
proud enough  
to disarm all the criminals  
draped in their judicial robes  
or brandishing policemen's guns,  
and then an honest justice,  
based on truths *we* hold self-evident—  
may finally be done.

Steve Bloom  
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