

Seattle City Council

Finance and Culture Committee Meeting

2 p.m. Wednesday, February 12th, 2014

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Judith Roche**

Today's poet is **Michael Hureaux Perez**

Michael Hureaux Perez is a military brat born in France then carted to Pennsylvania then Alaska then Washington Oregon California Arizona New Mexico Texas then Alaska again then bail jumped to the west coast then Nevada then up to Seattle then the streets then community arts and drums and hoodoo studies and theater and married and then Puerto Rico and communism and then college in Vermont then married then teaching in Brooklyn and Harlem and Bronx and then Seattle again and teaching again and then chased out of teaching and now a case manager and then a head case and now he's here, thank you very much.

Howlelujah

By Michael Hureaux Perez

Howlelujah! Howler monkeys in church

Making a joyous noise unto the lord

Praise the lord said the pastor

Wooo wooo woooo wooga shouted the howler monkeys

Give me an amen shouted the pastor

Owoooga waga waga waga shouted the howler monkeys

Owooooooga booogety booogety

Said the howler monkeys now speaking in tongues

For their faith was great verily I say unto thee

It's time for the offering said the pastor

A waga waga waga said the howler monkeys

I said it's time for the offering the pastor repeated

Oooooo hooowooga googly m oogly said the howler monkeys

It was a miracle said the witnesses bearing all things

Believing all things hoping all things love love love yes
And the lord
Who just happened to be leaning over
The side of one turquoise island of forever
Puffing on a five dollar seegar he was overcharged for
At the A and P and sipping on a shot of Havana club
Laughed har har har like a big old crow
So moved was he by the festival of the howler monkeys
That he did a dance in the midst of the joyous chaos
A wondrous dance that smelled of nutmeg
And oleander blossoms and half answered riddles
And everyone's mama's nipples
It was a great day for everyone
The great howler monkey revival was
And you were there and I was there
And everyone was there
It swept through all corners of the universe
Although news might have taken its time getting to you
If what you got is dial up
But no one is exempt from redemption
Not even the born again whatevers not the postal service
Not even Bono will be denied the glory of the howlelujah
So let the damn rock roll away from the tomb
And let's boogie.

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