March 2, 2014

American Inequality, A Prose/Poem 3/2/2014

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American Inequality

Technology’s gift of expanding wealth
is distributed among the super rich.
Seems Congress, Court and policy’s beholden
to an affluent few whose greed depends

on low-wage pain for half the nation
struggling from paycheck to no paycheck.
And their children, shorn of the promise
Of a brighter day: under-educated

and lacking opportunity to raise the wage.
If you imagine the poor living lives of ease,
explain their shorter life expectancy, please.
Their prevalence of anxiety and mental illness.

Such measurable miseries oppose your fancy.
Who betrayed American democracy into oligarchy?
Thieves who usurp the science bonus
in greed without guilt for the hopeless.

“The poor deserve their pain,” they say.
Pope Francis knows that’s wrong.
But who will set it right?