

I first read this quote when I saw it shared in reference to the u.s.-israeli war on iran. It put words to the growing, crushing feeling I'd been having of all my grief and rage colliding. The feeling I had when I heard about a member of our community being kidnapped was the feeling I had when I heard about a bomb striking my cousin's neighborhood was the feeling I had when I heard about a school being bombed in iran was the feeling I had when I heard someone was murdered while doing ice watch on my old block. While this is all a feeling, I hope it also speaks to the ways in which all of our struggles against empire are intertwined. I believe that was James Baldwin's sentiment when he first wrote these words voicing his opposition to the vietnam war, describing how his own experience as a Black man in america laid the white supremecist logic of the u.s. empire bare. Here is a more full version of the quote:

*Let us attempt to face the fact that we are a racist society, racist to the very marrow, and we are fighting a racist war. No black man in chains in his own country, and watching the many deaths occurring around him every day, believes for a moment that America cares anything at all about the freedom of Asia. My own condition, as a black man in America, tells me what Americans really feel and really want, and tells me who they really are. And therefore, every bombed village is my home town.*

All my love to those fighting this dying empire. In the same breath we pray for its end, I can hear a new world on the tips of our tongues.