

# Cassandra in Chains

Ada Ardère

2025

Justice is vengeance in a world mad for blood.  
Justice is debt when the slavers need their quota.  
One-million innocents in one-million shackles:  
one-million head of oxen  
and the cops lick their lips like cannibals  
when the masses scream "They deserve to suffer!"

.  
Animal experiments extend to the wretches,  
humanity ripped from them for any convenient reason,  
and those too poor to be exempt from the slaughter  
weep in their cages in brutal, enforced silence,  
where justice is a mask worn by lovers of power.

.  
A prison is a prophecy of the future of a people.  
Her invisible walls stretch past the barbed wire,  
further and further until all are trapped within  
and all of the heartlessness no longer only applies  
to those unlucky enough to be known by a number.

.  
Whatsoever is taken, whatsoever is stolen  
from the backs of the faceless and weakest,  
will be taken and stolen in time from the rest  
who are neither a guard nor a master.

Ada Ardère is a Puerto Rican poet from New Orleans living in Kansas City. She studied philosophy of art and Plato, and loves beat poetry. Her writing has recently appeared in 34<sup>th</sup> *Parallel Magazine*, *Wussy Mag*, *Writers Resist*, and the *New Southern Fugitives*.



Ada Ardère  
Cassandra in Chains  
2025

<https://www.fiftheestate.org/archive/417-winter-2025/cassandra-in-chains>  
Fifth Estate #417, Winter 2025

**[fiftheestate.anarchistlibraries.net](https://www.fiftheestate.org)**