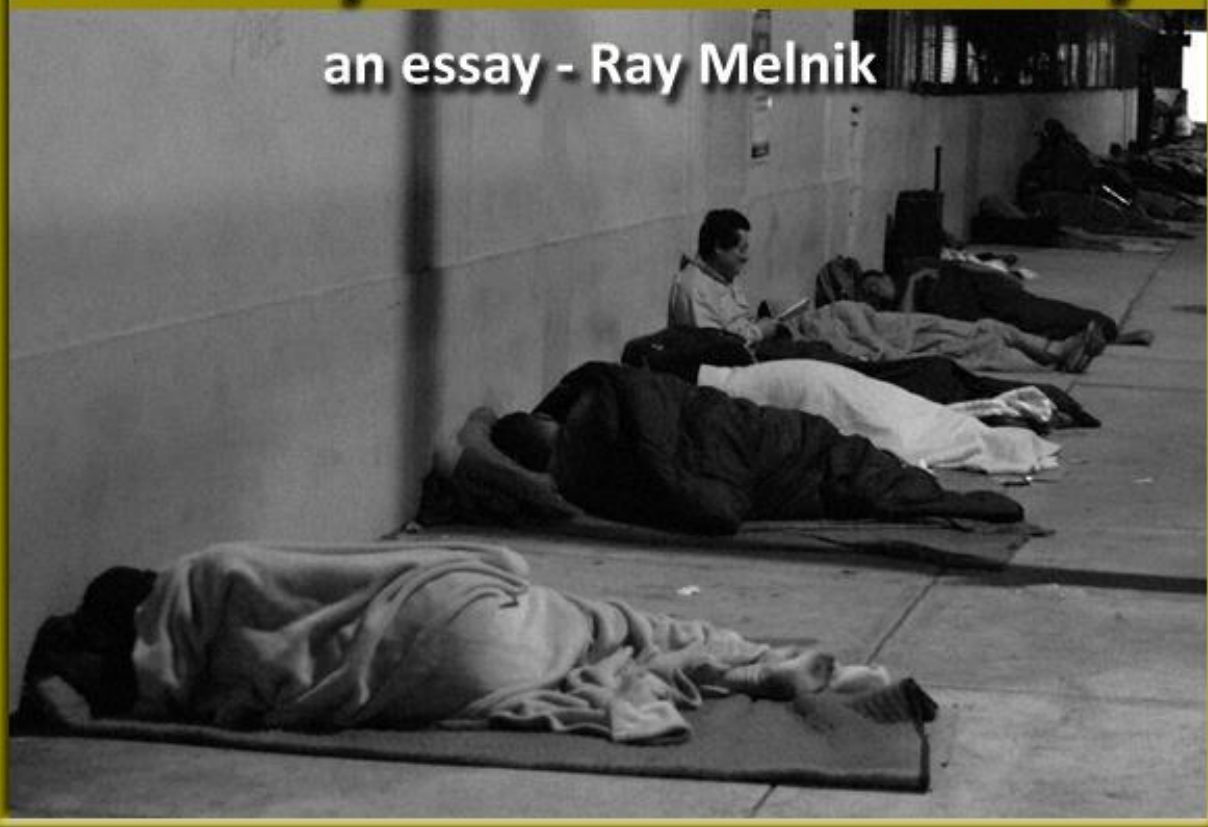




# If They Have Their Way

an essay - Ray Melnik



## **If they have their way –**

If they have their way, a child's illness will bankrupt a young family, and give no guarantee their child will get enough care anyway. If they have their way, everyone who lives paycheck to paycheck will work until they die working, or need to rummage through bins in the nicer neighborhoods on recycling night to make sure they can eat. The pains from the wear and tear of years of physical work will need to be tolerated. Even the co-pays for treatment will be unaffordable.

If they have their way, we will classify each other as us and them. We will be judged for our race, religion, origins, preferences and station in life. If they have their way we will be flooded with objects that kill, but parched for places that educate. The divide between the haves and have nots will never be wider. Their ability to separate us into smaller groups, encouraged to blame the others, will keep us in line.

If they have their way, our water and air will be an open sewer, and no consideration paid to that fact that there are no real borders. Filth and damage cannot be contained by a wall. If they have their way it will be consumption without consideration, numbed by corporate influence in every aspect of our lives and desired results drilled in by beautiful people in media. Views and ideas, we are convinced are our own.

If they have their way, distractions will keep us complacent. We will be happy just to have a tiny bit more than the other, and proud when, once a year we feel sorry for the least fortunate of the others and write a check from that tiny bit more. The rest of the year we can ignore how we let them distract us, and divide us. It will be demanded that we love a piece of cloth, recite allegiance to an ideal they are smothering, and believe we are the greatest above all others.

But only if they have their way.