

**Richard X**

**Topic:** Hopeicide

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“It may be impossible to speak on the history of black rhetoric, writing, preaching, and black spirituality generally without considering the utility of hope. Many scholars would argue that hope is the centering ethos of the black community and the moral compass of America and has produced many movements toward a better and more just future. Others would contend that hope is the pragmatic everyday practice of everyday living for those who are left behind by civil society. Some would even say that hope is a direct gift from the Divine, something the world couldn’t give and the world couldn’t take away. These are not claiming I wish to necessarily contest but to engage in dialogue with. If Hope has been the moral compass of America, we must contend with what direction our country is headed. If Hope has been the pragmatic practice of marginalized across the globe, one must reckon with a world that is only getting worse in terms of that global poverty, violence, and housing insecurity. If Hope is a direct provision from God, we must wrestle with a confining and constraining god who seems powerless at the sight of black death. Who exactly does “hope” serve? What are its contents and capacity? I’m afraid that an ethical discovery into “hope” and its utility for black freedom considering the lived experience of black people and the writings of such as Miguel De La Torre, Calvin Warren, and Crystina Sharpe, will uncover something quite insidious. Hope is killing black people”.