

## **Forsaken**

*Teddy Francis*

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What is left of the Red Man whom we came to convert?

In a dark womb/stripped and robbed of my culture/first it was residential school where another lost her potential/

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There's no mistaken/his land was taken

Teepees to a six by nine cell/pray to the Creator they say we're going to hell/

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In a dark womb/pouring out my heart to a stranger I didn't know/it's exhaustion.

Indian to Indigenous/what about my late Father's pain/taken in the sixty scoop/I remember a verse from a song he showed me/it's called logical

"Everything was magical wonderful then they took me away taught me to be logical"/my Father said it reminded him of that time/

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In a dark womb/I heard echoes of Justin Trudeau say they foster rehabilitation and reintegration yet all I see is INCARCERATION/why?

Forsaken

In a dark womb/I did ten years: two thirds past my time/finish my correctional plan and accomplish my high school diploma

So where's the reintegration? Am I forsaken?

Fortification/please see my probity, dark reality, prudential.

I'll step up and live for my Father and Mother potential

Proved First Nation/From Heart Lake first nation... all my relations.