

America, by Angela Brown

Outcast

America is my country,
For I know no other place;
That granted me freedom to speak.

I speak of how America taught me to survive.
Being a strong black women,
Enslaved in a glass ceiling of containment.

I speak of how America reminds me,
Of the pain and devastation,
Born from harsh, sapling winds in pride.

For I know no feeling,
From the terror of darkness,
From the river of death,
I call America my home.

The Walls between Us

Beyond walls, we hate one another.
Beyond barriers, we live in fear.
Beyond containment, we don't care.
Beyond climates, we don't understand.
Beyond hope, life is too complicated for forgiveness.

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Uncle Tom

Little brown companion,

A tapestry of time lies ahead.

Redemption hale on the life of slaves;

Prayer cried in the third era freedom.

Doubting Tom, led the revolution;

A vigilant voice to be remembered.

For the river asks for the liberation of a black man.

Harriet

Harriet you carried a dreadful load of humility.

You paid the price of life, for what you believed.

Harriet, a visionary of dreams, you speak of freedom;

From the disciples of slavery, to many prayers of hope,

Harriet, unspoken words are filled with devotion.

Malcolm

Malcolm had the desire to covet

Hope amongst the trodden.

So the dark shadow that hunted the weak,

Was reassembled for the people's voice to be heard.

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Those Boys

The boys in the hood

That hanged out all day

Playing Pac Man

At the corner arcade

In truancy from junior high,

Knew what their place in society.

A Tribute to the Black Man

How can one be black,

And not know their pride?

How can one be black,

And not know their culture?

How can one be black,

And not know their roots?

How can one be black,

And not understand their history,

How can one be black and ignorant?

The Poor Children

The poor come in masses

A victim indebted to generations people who live poverty

The poor come in masses

A victim generations of negative stereotypes

The poor come in masses

Of an ailing cycle of poverty embedded in pain