Portraits of Change
Awakening

Bright-eyed and ready
The world is my canvas
And I've never painted before
But I, myself, am art
There is beauty in my quirks
Watch me move
My rhythm, my flow
My shimmer and shine
In all my natural tones
My body glistens
My mane coils in perfect chaos
And I feel
Accepted entirely
As I am

See me
Fresh and new
Can't you feel it
This awakening

The world has colors
Invisible to the naked eye
A spectrum of inequity
Hidden within the strokes
Of humanity's masterpiece

Together, we paint the canvas
With hues of empathy and understanding
We learn the history of colors
Long silenced, now vibrant
Our brushes unite,
Our hands entwined
In a shared commitment
To dismantle chains
And let new colors breathe

Embrace this awakening
In solidarity and love
Create a new masterpiece
A portrait of change,
Rendered in vibrant hues
A world where
All are seen,
Heard,
And cherished
Untold Stories

A white woman told me I was privileged today
Said I had never worked for anything before in my life
She said it like it was the most obvious thing about me
And it was surprising that I didn’t see it myself

She says she can tell
By the way I dress
The way I walk
The jewelry I wear
And here I am,
Foolishly thinking glasses were something I needed
But no, those too,
Are a sign of my privilege

I can tell by the way she looks at me
That she’s seen my type before
All play and no work
All take and no give
Always taking up space I didn’t bleed for
Forcing myself and all my privilege
Into places where we don’t belong

I must be too noticeable
Too unusual
Too unexpected
I shine too brightly
I smile too often
I’ve flown too high
Now it’s her job to clip my wings
To put me back in my cage
To remind me that my freedom is a privilege,
Not a right

We stand in a world divided
By invisible lines and judgments unspoken
Yet the pursuit of equality and justice
Demands understanding, empathy, and growth

She speaks of my life
But knows not my struggles, my pain
True antiracism requires
Acknowledgment of the stories untold
Our journeys are different,
But our goal is the same
To dismantle outdated systems
To see past the surface and into the heart
Where the seeds of change take root and grow

Together, we must learn and unlearn, side by side
Empathy illuminating the path we tread
In our quest for justice and truth
Our unity paves the way to a brighter future
The Unseen Battle

In the depths of our souls, a battle unfolds
A clash between the old and the new
The echoes of the past, the whispers of the future
In this fight for change, we are not immune

The armor of ignorance we once wore
Now heavy, uncomfortable, confining our hearts
We shed it layer by layer, piece by piece
For the path of equity, we bravely embark

With every step, the shadows of prejudice fade
The shackles of fear and hate, we leave behind
In the darkness, we search for the light of truth
The courage to face the unknown, we strive to find

In this unseen battle, we are warriors of change
With empathy as our shield, compassion our sword
We dismantle the walls of division and silence
And sow the seeds of love, in every word

Together we rise, united in our purpose
To create a world of justice, where all can be free
The battle within, a journey of self-discovery
Antiracism, the foundation for true equality
Mosaic

In the quiet of my reflection,
I find solace in the fragments
Of a life lived in pursuit of truth
Where broken pieces come together
To form a mosaic of growth and understanding

Each shard, a memory of the journey
A lesson learned, a challenge overcome
Their edges may be jagged, their colors varied
But united, they create a story
A testament to resilience, hope, and love

Through this lens,
I see the world anew, in all its complexity
A tapestry of experiences interwoven
Bound by the threads of collaboration and compassion
In this unity, we find strength and healing

For it is in our differences that we discover
The beauty of our collective humanity
Embracing every hue, every shade,
Every story that shapes our shared existence
In wholeness, we find the power to transform

And so, we walk the path together
In pursuit of a world that honors all
Where brokenness gives way to understanding
And the fragments of our lives unite
To form a masterpiece of harmony and accord