

# 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  
The products I use  
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To dismantle outdated systems  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