# **New Directions**

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# **Poems**

**Editorial Staff** 

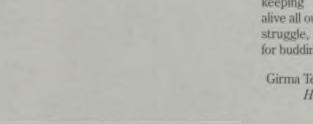
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## THE ARTS





#### Poet: Self-Portrait

Entangled in your poems voice of ancestors

Your fervor tension flame that inspires ignites freedom from oppression

Entangled in your poems voice of ancestors

Your idea volcanic erupts-molten lava boom the struggle of your people

Entangled in your poems voice of ancestors Your purpose guards our earth our people keeping alive all our struggle, hope for budding

Girma Tessema Wubishet Howard University

### Messages of Life

messages of life
are red
with
tears and tragedies
humanity hangs
on absurdities
the curtain of life
falls daily
with no perceptible end
yet
stumbling and groping
through
bewildering chaos
serve
no useful purpose
either.

janét r. griffin Howard University

### Reclaim, Reconnect, Renew

I sat quietly Like a Lion in tall grass stalking its prey Then moved slowly, gradually Edging my way Moving almost motionlessly In complete control of every muscle Then stopped, Sat quietly, Blended into my surroundings With eyes fixed on the mark Then when the time was right I pounced on it Snatched it up Like a fisherman yanking his rod out of the water Pulled it towards me It's mine! Was taken from Now I've got it back With patience, knowledge, and enduring strength I have regained the culture that was once taken From me and my people

The people, the riches, and the culture Were taken from Afrika The land of the Black people My people

The sweet fruit of Afrika Plucked Disbursed Made to almost rot By the hands of others Pulled from the life giving vine

The fruit of Afrika has not rotted
Even with a new look
It is still the fruit of Afrika
A raisin is a grape left for dead
But closer examination reveals it as the same fruit
With a new look

The fruit of Afrika will learn of the true vine And respect it for the life it gave The fruit Afrika will reclaim its vine Even though others tried to connect to it The real seeds of the fruit of Afrika will reconnect Even though birthed in other soil These seeds will form their own vines And Gradually, Grow, reclaim and reconnect With the mother vine Forming one strong unified vine And the unified vine will grow stronger Fertilized by the fruit it produces

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