Poems

Editorial Staff

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In Appreciation of Chancellor Williams

The wondrous magic of many things are forbidden
To us, our minutes of glory and defeat
Come to light of knowing in piecemeal fashion,
Have gone the way of the wind, disappearing
Leaving taunting echoes sounding softly
In the hush of an evening sun falling to night,
Have left massive stone gardens and lethal demons
Dancing in our minds’ hearts, pushing reason to be man
In a world spread over the earth like a helpless virgin—
O, our past like the fear of boys turning to valor
On seeing Hannibal, the weariness of learning
That drove Solomon to his wealth of concubines
The slow and bloody creation of the word
By hands of dark-skinned, coarse-haired thinkers,
Tranquil freedom of wisdom, voices that touched and were God.

Michael S. Weaver
Baltimore, Md

Equanimity

The rain has its tail cut many times before it soaks the red earth.

Girma Wabishe Tesfema
Howard University

Beyond the Deep

Ah, my Brother How can I see The beauty in your eyes? Look at me, my Brother Let me try to see!

Minnie
(Minnie Chapman)
Landover, Md.

‘You I Salute’

Who would travel paths unknown, Who cannot to current “isms” yield, Who answer calls which are your own And amen to Prometheus prompts say

W.E. Langley
Brookline, Ma.

This Killer of the Dream

Pride stumbles and sometimes falls When we are forced to answer her calls. Will develops a limp After every unsuccessful attempt To destroy this killer of the dream, unemployment. Each failure fuels the fire of resentment.

Wilma D. Perry
Silver Spring, Md.

A Passionate People

Some dark as night Others light as a star What a motley race We Black folk are! And what a noble, Passionate people we be— Grandchildren of Africans Who crossed the sea. A foreign foe Raped our lands Yet through it all Our unity stands. What a noble, Passionate people we be— Offspring of dark men Who yearned for liberty! From slavery to sit-ins Through troubles near and far

We proved what a beautiful, passionate, people we are!

Timothy Hughes
Marshall, Va.

The Natural Force of Gravity

When it rains, nature has released her waters from the clouds. Once fallen, nature has quenched the thirst of all plants and animals and has moistened the land so that the plants may grow;

Gravity is the element that pulls the rain drops directly down to earth so that Mother Nature may continuously fulfill her kaleidoscopic life cycle;

It holds the little birds that perch outside your window ledge and rest a moment only to resume their flight;

The element is the force that lies between your feet and the ground that permits you to move freely in any direction and subsequently coming to a brief resting position after each transition;

Knowing that there is food neatly placed on the grocery shelf, we are now seated around the table to enlarge in size, thus we are thankful that this force holds our food in place;

It allows us to take long strolls in the park, to reap the fresh air and to walk hand in hand with the one we care for very much;

To find ourselves indulging in the matter day after day it tends to bring on deep thought, for without this incredible force everything would float aimlessly away

Brenda A. Baumgardner
Washington, D.C.

Acculturation

Colorless
Black people rush aimfully in the whhhhtite direction.

Nieri H. Nuni
Howard University