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MOTHER AFRICA

Ailing pains that never seem to go away
Freedom like no other
Respect for the motherland
Innovative on another level
Cast away as though an insignificant speck
Amazing-never cease to survive despite the strife

Mother AFRICA
Although they will burden your back
With a load
Too heavy that some would collapse
Beneath it
But it is you
And so despite this
You stand strong
Proud, back straight
Poised and graceful
As though a gazelle

Your beauty lies in your strength
In the wisdom shining from your aged eyes
Despite the years
You retain the twinkle
Despite the deprivation
You still have but more to provide
You are the forgotten star
By which our forefathers depended
The same star
By which we derive our knowledge
Yet you go unacknowledged

Regardless,
You are a rare beauty
A gem among the sand
Wealthy yet not affluent
Paradoxes unparalleled
All of which makes you you

Mother Africa
Color of a rainbow,
Variety of spectrums neglected,
Your whole body disfigured, dismantled
Despite this-
Your heart & soul remain intact

Mother Africa-
Robbed of galaxies
In history and still today
Made an unwanted guest in your own home
Sent away to a land unknown
Only to sell your very soul
Yet you persevered
And maintained your identity
Rebellious without appearing to be so
Scapegoated for many ills
Ignored despite your cries
Overwhelmed by external forces
Undermined your skill, your wealth of knowledge
Imposed western values
Which force you
To slowly lose a part of yourself
So much has changed
And its up to those who live under you
To preserve your values

Mother Africa,
Though we may be poor in monetary terms,
As long as our hearts beat
With the same steady rhythm of our forefathers,
As long as our spirits remain strong,
As long as our minds are free from the confines of this world,
Then we are free,
And we are whole,
And we will be among the wealthiest,
For this is not a wealth to be bought and sold,
This is not a wealth that can be taken away,

To quote another,
“Economic poverty is only one form of poverty,
Ecological poverty, ethical poverty, social poverty, spiritual poverty are other forms of poverty
that are more prevalent in the so-called rich North, than the so-called poor South-and these
poverties cannot be overcome by dollars!”

Always remember
They may take all from us,
But until we allow it,
They will never break our spirits,
Colonize our minds,
Or conquer our hearts
So remain beautiful and strong

LIVE LONG MOTHER AFRICA!

About the author: Nebila Abdulmelik is a recent graduate of the MA in African Studies at UCLA. An Ethiopian citizen, Nebila will be returning to the beloved continent to pursue sustainable development projects.