#### TRUE BEAUTY

Innocence and purity So beautiful. What makes it so beautiful That no outward adornment Could ever add to its beauty? True beauty Sees oneself unflawed, Confidently loving and respecting oneself. Placing value on their uniqueness Setting them apart From conformity With a quiet strength that is enduring. Untainted by the superficial Not contaminated by Impure thoughts or desires. True beauty Seeks not the approval Of flawed mankind. Whose ideal is warped by sin Not recognizing real worth. True beauty Remains unsoiled Discerning truth, Standing for righteousness, Not surrendering To the lies of comparison. True beauty Has no need for boasting. She stands quietly Wondering why All eyes are watching. Truth be told, This beauty is so desirable There is an adversary hungry to destroy it Coexisting with a desire to preserve it. This adversary entangles innocence, No one wants to be alone. He knows She will not come willingly

# **TRUE BEAUTY**

If he does not disguise himself, Covered up in lies. True beauty Knows the scars and trials of life Only add to her beauty. She stands as a pillar Her strength shown It was not weakened. The obscurities of fallen man Seek to destroy it While those who value its worth Stand guard to protect this treasure. True beauty.

## I AM PERFECT

O I am perfect. Not because I have not sinned Nor made a mistake A time or two. Not because I never made A bad decision or choice. But because, God made me And in His image no less. O I am perfect. Not because I have not A wrinkle, blemish or scar. Not because My weight agrees with my height Nor my thighs Without cellulite. But because, God made me In His likeness no less. O I am perfect. Not because My hair is straight or curly Blonde, brown or red Without gray. Not because My eyes and skin Match a certain color. But because, He made me As He saw me in His thoughts. O I am perfect. Not because My dress size is small.

## I AM PERFECT

Not because I stand elite With a high IQ Above status quo. But because, God made me Before I even had a form. The Creator paused To take a look And with a sigh, "My masterpiece." O I am perfect To the One Who crafted me by hand. I need not change one thing. I need not conform To the adversary's vision. I am perfect The way I was made.

# I AM NOT NOBODY

I am not nobody I am a chosen somebody. Chosen from the ordinary To be extraordinary. Inferior by the world's view, Priceless in the hands of God. No, I am not nobody I am a chosen somebody. I am neither Wise or powerful, Influential or royal descent. So I was chosen To shame the wise The strong and elite Of this world. I was chosen For my lowliness And all I am not, To nullify the things that are. Silencing the boasts of man, Proving his insufficiency. See, I am not nobody I am a chosen somebody, That great and mighty things Will be done through me. Not nobody, A chosen somebody.

#### I'M NOT WHO I WAS

The struggle is real to be identified for who I am, not who I was. When will people look beyond my past to see who I am today? When will people allow me to live unchained to my past? When will I stop identifying with my past and accept who I am today? When will I believe, I'm not who I was? When faced with a challenge, will I revert to who I was or will I believe in who I am now? Not all people tie me to my past. They knew me not before the person I am today. They see me as I am and know not the person of past. Sometimes, these people know me better than I know myself. They see me unconditional, no past to impede their thoughts of who I am today. They understand we all have a past because they too have one. These are my people, they see me the way I see them. They encourage who I am today and do not hinder me with the past. There are those who followed me from past to present. Those who stood when I could not and were the voice when I could not speak. They walked me from past to present and encourage who I am today. They do not bring up history or lay stumbling blocks at my feet. These too are my people. Those others that tagged along from past to present, they carry all the rubbish. Our paths seldom cross, but when they do, they start unpacking. They are stuck in a place long gone and cannot see today. These are the ones that make my struggle so real. These are the ones that cause me to struggle with self and doubt who I am today. This struggle is paralyzing and haunts my thoughts. It leaves me in limbo, downcast, too afraid to trust in who I am now. These are not my people! But, for you people, if I could be who I am today by changing my past, I would. But the past is simply a learning tool. It can define no one, it has no claim on anyone. It can only help shape who we are today. Therefore, I will celebrate who I am today and cherish what was learned from the past, not defined, but emerge stronger, wiser and empowered.