

Poetic Justice

Eric Fantauzi

I take back my power when I type black letters
Upon white paper to atone for
The stainless blood
Spilled for far too long

I take back my power when I embrace
All sides of my heritage,
Not just the European roots
Or the African
Or even the Indigenous Native roots

I am a mix of soul and passion:
The pieces of my cultural puzzle fit--
I can feel the sorrow of my fellows pulse
Who, like the past
Version of myself, are afraid to be
Themselves, unapologetically

I feel the vigorous grit of my ancestors
Rumble within me every day
When I open my eyes
And take a breath of precious air

Every time I sit down to write, it is an act
Of defiance and justice
The tribe may make me their whipping boy
But I'll take this on
If it means standing up
For those who can't

I'd rather die alone
Doing what I love
Than be an ant
In the tribe's colony