

Josephine Wu

“Infinite Walls”

Where am I?
What a strange place to be
The face in the mirror
Doesn't belong to me
Everyone has left
And now it's silent

The man who was once here
Is not anymore
He said he would always be with me
So where is he?
Perhaps this is better
Forgetting who we were

I can hear my own thinking
My God, it's so loud
I find myself talking
To my own private crowd
I'm staring at a mask
But wait, it's me

I tell myself it's for the best
Entering this new land
Where time ceases to exist
And there seems to be no end
Some strange smell surrounds me
A thousand needles prick me

The pain is back
But what can I do
Jim Crow is in this town too
I'm told that this is normal
And should not be a surprise
After all, this is our life

Maybe I was destined to be like this
Wandering like the nomad
Not even for my child
Could I come clean
The pangs of my past
Are just too much for any human being

Where is my hometown?
Is it here in the smog and crowd?
Or is it back in the cotton field?
It seems no matter where I go
I hear in the same tone
"Stay where you belong"

So everyday I go to work
I follow all the rules
Aren't things supposed to get better?
But who am I to know
Everyone says this is better
But I don't see how

What if I had stayed?
What if I never left?
What would my life be?
With sweat upon my brow
The sun never going down
Forever in a sea of cloud

I suppose it's too late now
To go back to those years
Of endless days and endless nights
Because we left
We took that step
Unknowingly into history

Our plight continues
But we will also fight
For our well deserved rights
To live where we want
To do what we want
To be who we want