**FLOWERS IN A BROKEN VASE**

If you would close your eyes

And take a deep breath,

You would feel the texture of my soul.

You would woo me to the ends of the earth and give the earth you have travelled as dowry

You would speak of me in battle tales,

You would call me to quench you when you battle the sun.

If only you would close your eyes,

And take a deep breath,

And let your deep breath carry you in.

Both your eyes have stayed open for too long,

And known not what it feels like to fantasize,

And your heart has stayed close too long to know what it means to crave.

If only through this cracks you would see that,

My spirit stares back patiently,

With virgin eyes and a hidden fragrance reserved for truthful hands.

I would love for you to see me,

Though like bullets you drift past me

With your sharp words

But I have had deeper cuts,

And wider wounds to keep me from being fazed

This cracks that you see keep me hidden within your empathy,

A place you have never known exists.

I am safe behind this holes and cracks

Than in the hands of your broken soul

You may think that I leak all that I am

But you too leak and pour and burst

Unlike you I hear it, see it, and know it and feel it

And I may trickle but you pour like a dam

I cry for you

Laminated covered by a plastic life

Flooding with words of rot inside

That may never be washed away

If only you had breathed this air,

You would see we are all like flowers

That we who have seen war,

Wear our cracks without shame

For better our armor breaks than our hearts.

And that to leak is to have lived valiant

With roots breaking free as those,

That have starred death

Yet breathe on

For we know broken parts get healed

If we let the sculptured, sculpt

Yet our memories remain and stay not on his chisel

Maybe I shall take in your breath

And feel the texture of your wounded soul

And show you what it means to be loved.

For today you are the flower in the broken vase

Weeping to be seen inside

So for your hidden fragrance I shall pay the price

To call you beautiful and whole and needed beyond words

And love you with a love none of us will ever be worthy of.