**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

But your eyes have stayed open too long

And not know not what it feels like to fantasize,

And your heart has stayed too long to,

Know what it means to crave

If only through this cracks you will 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 becoming fazed

This cracks that you see

Keep me hidden within your empathy,

A place you have never known exists.

I am safe behind these 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

And like you, I hear it, see it,

And know it and feel it,

And I might trickle but you pour like a dam.

I cry for you, laminated,

Covered by a plastic life

Flooding with words of rot insight

That may never be washed away.

If only you had breath 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 break than our hearts

And that to leak is to have lived valiant,

With roots breaking free as those

That have stared death yet breathe on

For we know broken parts get healed

If we let the sculptor sculpt yet our memories remain

And stay not on his chisel.

Maybe I shall take in your breathe

And feel the texture of your wounded soul,

And show you 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.