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Life: (un)titled

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Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters is an international literary journal dedicated to publishing works encompassing, but not limited to, the Anglophone, Francophone, Hispanophone and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The Journal is especially dedicated to presenting the arts and letters of those communities that have long been under-represented within the creative discourse of the region, among them: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, Maroon societies, and the Asian and Amerindian societies of the region. Calabash has a strong visual arts component.

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Bonafide Rojas

Life:(Un)Titled

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I've tried to edit my life into just good verses
of my existence, but life isn't a great poem
So a bad stanza or two will live in the piece

An indentation for my childhood
a run-on sentence for my adolescence
and a semicolon for puberty

Italics on my education
bold type for my first and last love
and underlines for the importance of family

Spanglish and an upside down exclamation point for heritage
a grammatical error for neighborhood
a coma after 14, 21, and eventually 30, to keep life going

I'll make the font either Arial Black or Impact
so it can represent my ego, then
Times New Roman size 11 to show growth

I'll break life mid-sentence, 2 breaths per page
an asterisk for a song lyric
representing a period in me

I'll keep it single spaced, so the words don't
out live the life in length and I'll keep the poem
on the left side of the page,

because I tried to stay on the left side of life
but once in a while a moment or word can stray right
trying to be free verse

No meter in my lines
Rhyming was never a strong point for me
Chicago knows they have jokes for my freestyle sessions

Wingdings to represent my outlandish behavior
a period to show closure for my animosity for my father

a question mark for my career

A haiku to show how I should be in life
An epic on how I tend to be
Simplicity is something I've strived for

There will be five parts to this piece
by the time I expire in breaths and heartbeats
NYC, Chicago with sub-sections, Love, struggle

And the fifth yet to be titled, but it'll be
multilingual to show my pilgrimage back
to Puerto Rico, Latin America and my love for travel

And in the end there will be
no pseudonym,
no moniker,
no Graff tag,
no hip hop title,
no acronym,
no performance
no Puerto Rican with hair who loved
rock and roll and Che Guevara
no Bonafide,
Hopefully no regrets (hopefully)