

## AFTERLIFE

I TAKE A DEEP BREATH OF  
FRESH AIR  
MY FIRST TRUE TASTE OF  
FREEDOM  
LEFT BEHIND BURDENS I NEED  
NOT BARE  
FEELING INNOCENT AND  
YOUTHFUL AGAIN  
THE FIRE IN ME FINALLY  
KINDLED... PRODUCING  
ENORMOUS FLAMES  
FREE TO DISCOVER MY TRUE  
IDENTITY  
NOT HIDE BEHIND THE PERFECT  
PERSON I ONCE PRETEND TO BE

BAGGAGE IN MY HEART THAT  
ONCE WEIGHED ME DOWN  
NOW SITS LIGHTLY ON MY  
HEAD... LIKE A CROWN  
PEACE; NON EXISTENT IN MY  
PREVIOUS LIFE  
NOW INGRAINED IN THIS ONE  
A SENSE OF BELONGING  
OF UNFAMILIAR COMFORT  
A WORLD WHERE MY VOICE IS  
HEARD, NOT JUDGED  
NO FAMILIAR FACES  
A CHANCE TO START OVER  
TAKE PRIDE IN MYSELF AND  
MOVE FORWARD