

## PERSPECTIVE

I am black  
My eyes are  
Brown and deep  
Kinky hair, dark skin  
Do not complete  
Who I am.  
I am at once  
One and many  
For there is more  
To me than we.  
I am a brilliant shade, a spark  
Descending from  
An ancient spectrum.  
I am not a threat  
Or stained statistic for  
Political agendas.  
I am not  
A cover for those  
Who cower behind  
Ignorance and prejudice.  
I am not  
An expectation  
Or callous caricature to  
Assuage your guilt.  
I am  
Mother, father  
Son, daughter  
Sister, brother.  
I am you  
I am devotion, family, labor  
I dream, struggle, rise.  
Your kind eyes  
Should see me  
In the fair light  
That beams  
From inside.  
There is more  
To learn when  
The open mind  
Chooses life not race.