

A Moment for Courage

Watch freedom disappear into the night
But bring our whole selves to the conversation
And rise as Warriors of Light

If we are who we say we are,
And believe as we believe,
Then this is the moment
To embody what we dream
We must walk with clear intention
With all our freedoms on the line
This calls for courageous leadership
In unprecedented times

Are our soles truly fortified
to take this road of jagged embers?
And when they speak of how we met the moment
How do we want to be remembered?

As we awaken at this crossroads
Count ourselves among the brave
Today, we find for once and all
The source from which we're made

And are we who we say we are
If we're afraid to change our minds?
Will our Mission Statements
Bend or break beneath the test of time?
Can we create the choreography
And not leave it all to chance
Can we pass the weathered walking stick
And teach ourselves to dance?

In this moment, it is paramount that we do not dance alone
Because seeds of isolation are where division grows
We will remember our humanity

Won't let them weaponize our love
Or compromise our sense of sanctuary
With words and threats thereof

If we are who we say we are,
We can no longer wait
We must amplify our inner voice
Lest the silence overtakes

We will plant ourselves with purpose
Advocating for neighbors and namesakes
As we surf this undulation
Through each sunset, every heartbreak

When we search our souls for those we serve
Let us prove worthy of the charge
Let the resurrection of newfound hope
Be the birth of Northern Stars

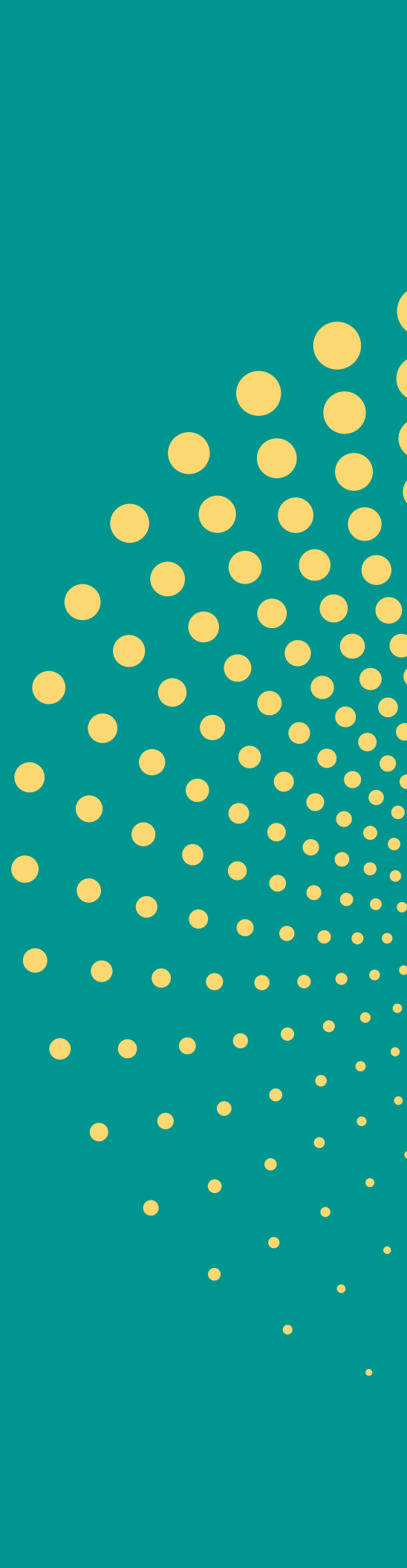
For the light in *their* eyes
Illuminate the path to liberation
And the smile they cannot hide
Breaks wide the source of what we're shaping

So as we convene, we make no room for kings
For those who would rewrite our collective history
scorekeepers who counter every inch of productivity
Who fan the flames of teeming futility

It's alright to be angry -
But we can't let it burn us alive
It's the fence we must set on fire
So our communities can thrive

They want us sick and searching
blindsided and bleeding
But we must make a game plan in the midst of our grieving
While they derail details, divide and destroy
We must radiate the regalia of determination and joy

Because rest is resistance
Laughter, a matter of survival
Dancing deepens our determination
To stay limber for each moment's arrival



If I am who I say I am, then “ I” becomes “we”
So I move like tide anticipates
My ripple in the sea
Through sun and moon and sun again
Torrential haze and gutting wins
Through freezing funds and acid reign
From scattered crowds to one again
For this is not the first time we’ve faced adversity
So we must compare our tasks and ask why history repeats

We must ask the urgent questions,
no matter where they lead
So we can answer the horizon
for generations yet conceived
We cannot stand idly by,

We must reach into the past and towards the future of which we dream

We must tie the knot, secure the plot, share the load, and hold the beam,
We must reconstruct the lifeline, assemble it rope by rope
And lace our best intentions with action, wisdom, and hope.

We are the ones we have been waiting for
The tools are in our hearts and hands
And the magic we make is measured
In our collective plans

This is the moment we were made for.
And it demands we do our part
If we believe and live and breathe
And say just who we are

And when we are long gone, what we did here will remain
Our collective effervescence
Our community, our connection
And the courage we gathered
In times of great change.

Nina Elizabeth
“Lyrispect” Ball
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