

*How They See Us*

when we tie knots in our hair  
the sun beams on our golden  
locks

we put bejeweled weights in  
our hair so that they think  
we restrict ourselves

they tell us we are so beautiful  
because we let sons of guns  
beam, no *look* down on us, and smile

grab our tiny waists and pretend  
to lift us up to the heaven  
we call gender equality and social justice

but instead they lift us up to their own  
*sunny* faces and tell us to smile  
even with braids so tight even

the skin our hair is rooted in is pulled back  
and grinded bodies and coated brains  
we are still dark rainy clouds to

them

but only to them

To us and those who support  
And understand us  
We ARE golden weights

With knots in our feet to ground us against  
The storm of patriarchy that pretends to  
Be a gentleman sun

And yet we have wings on our ankles  
And slither like serpents away from  
Their evil grasp and birth our own

Legends and pave our own way

Like goddesses who put footprints on  
Other planets when told the sky is the

Limit.

We are WOMEN.

White, Black, Asian, Indigenous, Latina, multiracial,  
gay, straight, trans, cis, abled, disabled,  
neurotypical, neurodivergent, large, small, rich, poor,

STRONG.

We are sisters who  
Will rise for each other no matter  
What is holding us down

Women who will NOT fall  
under pressures like the belief  
that men will always surpass us