

Incarceration

Stop!
Stop living in cages,
Miniature mental cells,
Aesthetics, rigid definitions of what is beautiful
Are bars that lockout the beauty that everywhere summons us.

A single dandelion bursts through a sidewalk crack,
Diamonds reflect in the dewdrops on the grass,
Ice-encased branches sparkle,
A micro-tiled Dunkin Donuts restroom floor yields multiple patterns,
Shiny smooth stones and coins are mini-lanterns on the roadway,
Beauty beckons us everywhere..

Our abstract categories blind us also
To the magic expressed in the lives of other humans
Who do not fit into or follow what we value.
We forget how much more they are more than what repels us
And we cancel them in our consciousness

The Amish display this non-seeing of others
By their categorization of all non-Amish persons as English.
We hoot in derision at this Amish characterization:
“Congolese refugees speaking Kiruwanda
Indigenous asylum seekers from Guatamala
Or Italian pizza makers
Are these all English?” we chortle.

Yet we too lock people out of our minds and our communities with single dimensional epithets:

“Immigrant,
racist,
fishwife,
slut,
pig,
atheist,
fundy,
Trumpian,
liberal,
ignorant,
snob,
incel,
Terf,
feminist,
socialist