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Expressions of Human Rights: You Live: A Poem of Love

Rodney Coates

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Expressions of Human Rights

You Live: A Poem of Love

Rodney Coates

Miami University of Ohio

Because someone bore the pain
Walked the mile
Tread down the dark channels of impossibilities
Spoke into the nothingness
Brought fire into the wilderness
You live.

Because someone denied the negative
Negated the tragedies
Wove gold from the straw of dreams
Taught the wind to obey
Fought disaster every day
You live.

Because someone chose to say yes
Erected a wall of care
Paid the price of eternity
Silenced the voices of doom
Destiny Secreted within a womb
You live.

Because someone stood in line
Ran the race
Filled the voids with laughter
Sprinkled wisdom amidst the tears
Sang the songs of freedom
You live.

~101~

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Because someone dared to love
Wrote your name
Within the rainbows of tomorrow
Placed the stars within your reach
Celebrated your every challenge
You live.

Because someone cherished the truth
Gathered the roots
Rehearsed the reasons why you could be
Deposited hope within your soul
Spoke knowledge into your being
You live.

Rodney D. Coates is Professor of Sociology and Gerontology at Miami University. He specializes in critical race and ethnic studies, theories, and research. He writes poetry to encourage critical dialogues across the spaces between the academe and wider society.

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