

“Birds”

By: Lauren Foster

A phoenix from the ashes
A crow sniffing the scent of carcasses
A pigeon pecking for a crumb or two
A dove signifying my love for you
A swan dancing silently in its lake
A peacock cocking its cockiness with an earthy feel

Did you not think this was real?
Wings clipped on the flabs of my back that you stabbed to make me fit your benefits
Sit and watch my bird dance
I've sat and watched my freedom dance and fly out of the window
I've sat and watched my kingdom frail and die because of the government's say-so
Because of our say-so
Fuck whatever I say, so let me say that I want to fly away
I want to see another day that isn't like any other day
I want to fly away to an island that pours out beauty and relaxation
A place like Bora Bora is a nice vacation
I want to fly away and see if the sky really is our limit
See, when I reach the sky, I can't fly away because we're boxed in
Inside a dome
And I have no choice but to fly on home

A peacock sheltering its feathers
A swan sinking down in its lake
A dove hitting a brick wall
A pigeon stealing food and all
A crow pecking at you and taking you away
A phoenix shot down as the ashes gains

We can't truly be birds
Not like this
We can't truly be birds without the wits
We can't truly be birds if our limits aren't infinite
We missing it, we missing out
Trains blow heinous cries that indicate some have stopped believing they can fly
I cry and wipe out the night off my window so I can see a hint of sunshine
Sunshine sparkles the glass of lemonade I made with the lemons life gave us

Meditate while others medicate
Participate while others precipitate
Fly while others ride trains to distant towns
Back on the ground from another flight in the sky
You can shoot me down, but I'll still have my wings

Fly while others hide
Fly while others act shy and afraid
I told you I wanted to fly away
Go away and never see the faces of those who wanted to fade away
Stay to watch the sunbeam over the clouds

Maybe we can be birds
Maybe we can fly from the ashes
Eat bread shared by pigeons instead of carcasses
Maybe we can signify love
Maybe we can swim in lakes and take our hair and let it loose
You declare me free
And I finally fly free