

Distortion

Kay Tracey (York University, Toronto).

Mirror Mirror on the Wall, who has the most identities of them all?
Travel the world to explore, yet, never fit in anywhere.
Who was I born to be? Is the reflection in the mirror an accurate image of me?
Too Black to be whyte, but that's not white; sorry, I mean right.
Split between the ever transitions of hybrid identities.
Moving from place to place
A foreigner here and there.
Othered here and there.
Where is the rest?

Changing masks frequently while occasionally checking to see.
If Black Me is safe to not play hide and seek.
As safely passing for many is still the plea.

Why are we still in this space?
The people who wear the unremovable uniform are still being hated and judged for a
construction that is not their creation.
The same hated creation that was forced and stolen but build riches for whyte
colonials without disguise.
Does that not require reparation?
Rather than condemnation.

Be the one they want you to be, wear the mask they want you to wear.
Accept white contentment and stories
But you dare not! Ever explore the whole truth.
After all, conformity and assimilation are the goals, says whyte man.
But that seems to involve white uniformity with no room for diversity.

Because diversity threatens the dominant discourses of hegemonic colonial structures.
Disguised as the law, masked as the ultimate power.
But that can't be.
Because just think for a minute...
Slavery was a legal institution built and maintained on the backs of Black folks.
While white men rest and hide from the sun and the truth they cannot stand.

But, if you tell the truth without telling it slant, then why be afraid of conscious
thoughts?
What is liberation without true freedom?

What is whyte wealth without Black folks' labour?
Yet, still judged twice as much, even as a professional
While Jews can hide their identities
Black skin is more than from within.

Whyte, you refuse to see the harm you have caused.
Instead, you use deception as protection as a cloak for your greed.
But then you claim that we are all free.
But all I see continually are reflections of control that force me to wear a mask.
And only whyte man be free.

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