## **Emancipation's Echo**

In ancient lands where kings and queens held sway,
Beneath the African sun, where golden rays danced and played,
There lived a people righteous proud, and free,
Their minds and hearts unchained, their spirits wild as sea.

From shores of emerald and sand of burning gold, Where stories of their ancestors were often told, They were ripped away by hands of pallid hue, Into the darkness of the unknown and mystery blue.

We, the pale-skinned harbingers of dread,
With greed and cold, rusted steel, their destiny we led,
Chained like beasts, reduced to mere chattel,
We saw not their worth beyond the shackled battle.

In the belly of ships, we carried silent cries,
Generations lost under indifferent skies,
From princes and warriors to nameless slaves,
Their dreams and futures swallowed by each passing wave.

Through fields of cane and cotton's cruel embrace, We turned their strength into labor's weary face, But in the silent night, their spirits would recall, The songs of freedom from their motherland's call.

Yet, even chains could not contain their might, Their souls ignited with an undying light, From bondage's depth, a fire within them grew, A flame of hope that only freedom knew.

Their struggles soared on winds of justice strong,
Their voices rose in anthems, ancient songs,
Until the chains were shattered by their hands,
Their feet unbound, they claimed these foreign lands.

Now, look upon the triumph in their gaze, In every stride, the strength of ancient days, From slavery's night, they've risen with the sun, To live, to love, to conquer what's begun.

For in their veins, the legacy of kings and queens of old, their heritage it brings, No longer chattel, but humanity's pride, They walk the earth with dignity as their guide.

In every heartbeat, in every soaring dream, Echoes the promise of freedom's gleam, A tale of endurance, of spirit's unbound flight, From darkest sorrow to emancipation's light.

So let us, who once cast them into the night, Now honor their journey to the heights, For in their freedom, we too are redeemed, A testament to the power of the human dream.

> BY: Theresa Thomas June 2024