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I Am...

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I Am...

Cover Page Footnote

Art: "Beauty and the Mainland" by Jackie Felix



"Beauty and the Mainland" by Jackie Felix

I am . . .

I am a jewel, a rare precious gem
My value is immeasurable
I have been beaten, kicked, and raped
I have been abused, deprived, and hated
I am still a jewel, a rare precious gem
I have been hungry, thirsty and tired
I have been cold, afraid, and lonely
I am still a jewel, a rare precious gem
I have given my full and total self
only to receive nothing
I have tried to fit in
only to be rejected
I have lent my heart, soul and money
only never to be paid back
I have let my voice be heard
only to receive silence in return
I am still a jewel, a rare precious gem
I have exhibited my strength and courage
only to be told that I have none
I have rejoiced in the reflection of my beauty
only to be told that I am not beautiful
I am still a jewel, a rare precious gem
I have illustrated my independence
only to be told that I am fully dependent
I have been weak, sick, and poor
I have been angered, provoked, and humiliated
I am still a jewel, a rare precious gem
My value is steadily increasing
and will never be measurable
For now, I am not what I used to be
I am the most precious natural resource on earth--
A BLACKWOMAN

by Ayoka Tucker