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# The Other Side of the Wall

Ted S. Owens

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“The Other Side of the Wall”

By

Ted S. Owens

From jungle's depth ghostly shadows emerge  
and gather timidly on its outer edge. Halted by  
a granite perimeter, they sway and peer as if  
sensing something on the other side faint in  
their memory. They follow the wall, groping  
their way on worn paths, scanning for cracks  
and feeling for soft spots. But the wall is  
solid and unyielding. Forlorn of hope, a  
corporate moan like a whispered dirge drifts in  
the humidity. Vague faces portray a semblance  
of youthfulness but the eyes are hollow and  
lifeless, like those of old prisoners worn down  
from bearing too long the burden of despair.  
The wall seems to call, and in eerie loyalty  
they answer. But theirs is a tormented  
faithfulness, driven by dread and fear. Once  
full circle, they trickle back into the jungle  
and fade into its apathetic embrace. Until  
summoned again, they sit at old blood stained  
places to remember, and weep.