

# Poetic Justice

*Eric Fantauzi*

I take back my power when I type black letters  
Upon white paper to atone for  
The stainless blood  
Spilled for far too long

I take back my power when I embrace  
All sides of my heritage,  
Not just the European roots  
Or the African  
Or even the Indigenous Native roots

I am a mix of soul and passion:  
The pieces of my cultural puzzle fit--  
I can feel the sorrow of my fellows pulse  
Who, like the past  
Version of myself, are afraid to be  
Themselves, unapologetically

I feel the vigorous grit of my ancestors  
Rumble within me every day  
When I open my eyes  
And take a breath of precious air

Every time I sit down to write, it is an act  
Of defiance and justice  
The tribe may make me their whipping boy  
But I'll take this on  
If it means standing up  
For those who can't

I'd rather die alone  
Doing what I love  
Than be an ant  
In the tribe's colony