

# Underground Anthology

---

Volume 1 *Underground Anthology* vol. 1

Article 9

---

August 2021

## Penultimate

Ibrahim UA

### Author Bio

Ibrahim is an Arab-American poet, writer, and aspiring novelist. Ibrahim's poetry is interested in exploring and bringing awareness to racial tensions, social injustices, and mental health to spur conversations and dispel ignorance on topics that are difficult to discuss or neglected. Ibrahim has a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts in English Literature and Language with a focus on ethnic literature and has been immersed in different ethnic struggles due to his own mixed ethnicity and interest in different cultures and their struggles. In his spare time, Ibrahim enjoys reading, watching sci-fi T.V. shows, traveling to other countries, and spending time with good friends.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/ua>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#), and the [Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

UA, Ibrahim (2021) "Penultimate," *Underground Anthology*. Vol. 1 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/ua/vol1/iss1/9>

This Creative Submission is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@CalPoly. It has been accepted for inclusion in Underground Anthology by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@CalPoly. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@calpoly.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@calpoly.edu).

# Penultimate

## From *Voices in Captivity* by Ibrahim

In our plight, we look back on history  
by looking into our tattered school books,  
damaged by the years of bombings and blockade.  
And we realize, though we have always known,  
that we are not the first to suffer so.

We look to you, the *First People of the Americas*,  
and ask you for guidance and strength  
to best cope with the loss of our lands,  
of our culture, of our ways of life. We look to you,  
because we know that they cover up your history  
the way they continue to cover up ours, suffocating it  
from the minds of the world's general population,  
until we are no more.

We look to you, *Japanese-Americans*,  
who understand what it is like to be relocated  
in your own country against your will. To be taken  
from your home, your business, your birthplaces,  
and forced to live in shambles, in stables, like animals.  
We look to you because we know that they altered the news  
of your relocation to make it look as if it were willfully done,  
the way it's been done to us for decades.  
We look to you for the strength to live another day.

We look to you, the other side of our coin,  
the *Black-American* population.  
We look to you because you too are too aware of having your pains,  
experiences, discrimination, dehumanization, and your unjust murders  
written off as *history* but it is not history. It is today, it is tomorrow, it is next year,  
and the year after for God knows how long. We look to you

because you know what it is like to not gain media attention for the injustices done unto you.  
We look to you for an embrace.

They said these injustices would never happen again, some never stopped,  
new ones continue to be carried out.

We look to you,  
we look to you,  
we look to you.