Egalitarian Education: Playing the Game of Equality in a Stratified Society

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The Woes of An American Teacher

At the crossroads

Old springs of knowledge haunting, pressuring, threatening

Stratify them! Cast them! Into achievers, non-achievers! High skill, Low skill

Then come new breaks of songs, pedagogies, technologies, new ethos stuff, new situated practices, Discourses, figured worlds, proclaiming!

Equal chances for all! Brown versus Board!!

A flash of pedagogies culturally sustaining, smothered with discourses on critical framing and transformed practices!

A vision of assessments, pouring in like a flood of living texts, standardized tests

My principal in a dream, pulling my purse and whispering in my ears

Test scores, bubble students, teach to the test!

At the crossroads, my head turning, my heart yearning

In my right hand, I see equal chances for all, and my left, I see an exploded grenade of tests, tearing students into tracks of high and low!

Oh, I thirst from these visions and flashes
Let me drink from the cup of social justice! All the challenges, all the victories!

Lumps of equity and equality scratch my throat

It is bitter and sweet

But the aftertaste is enlightening

A taste of empowerment and liberation

From the crossroads I arrive, at the door of the classroom

Drenched in the sweat from visions of injustice

Gorged with thoughts of equity and equality

From Arizona to Wyoming

Let the school bells ring!

Author Note

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