

“A Missing or Murdered Indigenous Woman”

I am the living, hidden shame
of a nation who denies guilt.

Intended as a gift of love and joy,
I have become a sacrifice
to greed for gold and lust for flesh,
a spirit distorted into an object.

You say I am dead.
I say you will not kill who I am.
You say I am missing.
I say you will feel me watching you.

I am a woman of the People.
I am strong.
I am eternal.
My spirit will be heard.

We who hear you
say that we will be your voice.
We who feel your absence
declare your humanity.

We who received
your gift of love and joy
demand that justice
rolls down like mighty waters.

We who know that balance and beauty
were destroyed when you were taken
send out your call to heal the Circle
and reclaim ourselves.

--Fred A. Shaw *Neeake*



*The Unheard
Woman: artwork by
Paige McNatt (Nanticoke
Lenni Lenape)*