

Race to be One

The word “race” has run amok and our connotations are complicit.
It divides, labels, stereotypes, and brings injustice with it.
Stealing meanings from words like nationality and ethnicity,
The greedy word has stretched its meaning and outlasted its utility.

The weaving is woven and cannot be unraveled.
The DNA crossed boundaries and is now well-traveled.
What is melded is married, and what is blended inseparable.
The soup cannot be unstirred, and it is delectable.

Myriad colors, tones, and shades for skin, hair, and eyes
Now make it almost impossible to categorize.
How to guess which languages are spoken by whom?
It’s the element of surprise; you don’t dare presume.

On forms, questionnaires, surveys, and applications
There is the ubiquitous race section with limited selections.
Do I check one box, two, or three?
How do I answer if none describe me?

Even the Decennial Census requires self-identification.
Inadequate choices inevitably cause confusion.
From this imprecise data, statistics assumed to be true
Evolve to percentages, announced for all to view.

Which group is waxing and which is waning?
Do you know there is a clear division remaining?
Who is the current majority, and who the new minority?
Why the preoccupation? Is this our priority?

Despite the efforts of those who prefer division,
Many strive to unify and nurture a different vision.
They see cultures intertwined, customs exchanged, all one nation.
They envision mutual respect, harmony, and cooperation.

The word “race,” to categorize humans, if ever it was needed,
Is now obsolete, and should be deleted.
Let’s retire this irrelevant old troublemaker
And acknowledge that we are all children of our Creator.

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