The Invisible Knife

Ellen Archey
Western Michigan University

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Ellen Archey
Department of Sociology

You don’t see it,
But it still cuts like a knife.
It chokes your thoughts from forming words,
And takes over your life.
It controls you, yet you don’t even see the chains.
Makes you want a man as your savior,
Makes you see yourself as nothing more than his wife
And makes you referred to as nothing more than his.
God becomes all male and the people “made in His image”
Are men because of only men count as people.
You’re made to feel guilty, trapped inside your own mind
And words you want to say, until silence becomes screams
And you are told to SHUT UP because you don’t matter.
But, you don’t even have to be told to shut up
To be symbolically put in “your place.”
You aren’t blind to it, you close your own eyes,
Cloak your face, your beauty, your potential,
And everything you deserve to acknowledge within yourself,
Because being a woman is enough to make you feel unworthy.
But, within this paradigm lies the true paradox:
Because your oppression is invisible you never see.
When there is nothing to smash, nothing to bend, and nothing to break,
How can you ever escape?
You can’t… until you realize you cannot feel guilty,
Guilty for speaking when you were taught to be silent,
And guilty for realizing you are more,
And that everything about you contains beauty.