

2021 POETRY OURSELVES RUNNER-UP

The Other Half

By Amy Liu

Developing Virtue Secondary School, Mendocino County



When God said,
“Let there be light,”
He also created darkness.

When Yin and Yang
rose out of the chaos,
they remained in harmony.

One half, bright as the moon
the other half, dark as the night.

But we,
we put labels on things,
said that white
was pure, was beautiful, was good.
said that black
was defiled, was ugly, was bad.

Who said?
Who dared to make this distinction,
that there was white
and there was black,
that there was good
and there was bad,
that there was one
and there was the other –
in a world of blurry, bleary gray?
in a world that is always an I for an I,
but not always a truth for a truth?
Who says?

Harmony, self-harmony.
Not harm on you, harm on we.

Because the Yin and the Yang
can never be separated
within, or without

Because the dark side of the moon
and the brightest, fullest side we see
are the same, just 15 days apart

Because the color of my skin, and the color of your skin,
and the color of their skin, are the same –
illusions of light.

One half, dark as the moon
the other half, bright as the night.

Distinctly different, but
Why not form
one circle

Not of light, and not of dark
Not of halves, and not of wholes –

Where there is no such thing as
the other half.