

# I Stand

I stand despite the cracks and surrounding rubble of my once beautiful landscape

I stand even when the weather has been bitter and severely unkind stripping away the beautiful colors that used to adorn my skin

I stand even during the turbulent times of drought and famine when praying for rain seemed out of sort and insane

I stand when rain clouds surround every corner of the sky releasing hail rain and thunder even on the days of light showers; blistering winds send violent chills through my walls that are now filled with cracks

I stand in the shadows of the weeping willow swaying from north to south preparing for the trouble ahead, I'm confident for there's nothing to dread

I stand strong amongst the trash and debris from the streets and fallen leaves

My foundation is strong and sturdy I am an eight wonder of the world

My beauty can only be seen when you look past my flaws, my beauty shines through the rubble and shambles of outward appearance

The windows of my soul hold deep secrets of mystery sorrow pain laughter and joy for I realize I stand strong when the storms of life are uncompromising leaving me no choice but to survive

I stand

## M. Tease

M. Tease was born in Los Angeles where she spent most of her life before moving to the San Fernando Valley. She grew up in a home where music and poetry were welcomed and encouraged by her mother who also writes poetry and sings. Early in life along with her mother and sister they formed a trio and sang together regularly at her uncle's church and other churches around the Los Angeles area. Her first introduction to poetry was through her mother who is an amazing writer in her own right and she always encouraged her children to use music as a way of expression in addition to insisting that they develop a love for reading. She uses her melodic poetry and spoken word as tool to deliver a message of hope love and spiritual awareness by understanding what it means to truly be your brother/sister's keeper. M. Tease believes that poetry is music to the mind body and soul, which has been used throughout the ages to bring about peace, love and humility around the world. M. Tease holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in both Business Administration and Business Management. She has been a featured poet at various venues around the San Fernando Valley and she recently shared her talents in the stage play "Children of The Night", a play about homeless children and families of Los Angeles, in addition to being lending her melodic spoken word at a recent talent showcase and women's conference in Los Angeles area

