Message Across Space and Time

mud-stained, bruise-faced, ego-strangled
on the way to school, while there, and
chased home to more of the same

while almost everyone escapes blackness
in one place or the other, you suffer
everywhere, all the time

your parents wish you didn’t exist
laughing at your fears
silencing your dreams

classmates throw rock-encased snowballs
you wonder how a child can
survive in a unforgiving world

voices tell you don’t belong
crushing you before you’re fully formed
but you find a way to stay strong

please believe it gets better little one
keep your head down, arms tucked in
so you don’t get pulled down the wrong path

continue walking, run if you must
you will grow old, though you think
life won’t see the age of ten
it’s there, just over the bridge
a step over adulthood
hold on a little longer

there are no promises of rainbows
riches or even happiness
just possibilities

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