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## Cover Me

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## *Cover Me*

you asked me to cover you while your regrets became heavier by  
night  
gone dormant from either lack of sleep or premature grief

I accepted you as you are wholeheartedly  
without hesitating for even a moment to bring you under my  
jaded tree  
its canopy gleaming at the edges  
shaded from unanswered prayers and hearkened pleas

maybe it was my misplaced naivety  
which could not perceive the extent  
of your insatiable appetite  
you masked as longing for soul-peace

No it could not have been peace you were searching for  
rather a rampant running desire  
to simply understand your own grief  
instead of carrying it in the back of darkened eyes  
seeking an alike wanderer  
to instantly recognize the loneliness  
folded between layers of white comforters  
and tear softened sheets

you expected me to gratify  
with sentiment this life  
chosen in cowardly fear

I could eject  
or rather weave out  
only a few spools of empathetic veneers

still I accepted your heated gaze  
as it was given to me  
with no intention to fluctuate your ways

I could see glimpses of your underlying heart every so often  
and this was enough for me

I saw it reflected in pieces of fractured mirror  
In your softness tinged with bleak memoirs  
In your loved ones who shifted like tectonic caricatures  
robbing you of even a spare moment  
to spend in private closure

I think I knew, even on that very first day  
you heart would always beat heavier than most

and even after all this dreary reflection, this is the only couplet I can manage to truly  
remember, to hold close,

what a shame it was you shrugged off the one who sought to understand your grief  
what a shame it was you left her who covered you under her green canopy

[and still don't fret- yes, its leaves are now frayed, but now remain mindful, lush in some  
places and healing in other spaces]

MADIHA SABER

