

Artist In Exile: Tome of A Neophyte

March 15th 2012
 Poetry Writing – Engl 352
 Dr. Jay Paul

Shaping Element Exercise: Contrast

From Then to Now: Journey of the Other - Untitled #031512

Back then we were “miscreants”, ALL wild and ignorant.
 Today we are masters of reading, writing, and arithmetic
 Back then we were called brutes and cast into steerage
 Today we stand proud wearing the Black badge of our heritage
 Back then we had to run and hide; “wearing the mask”
 Today we tear down walls with each progression and completed task
 Back then they claimed the phrase true: “Separate but Equal”
 Today we enjoy and continue the fight for civil rights as a people
 Back then we were property, simply cattle sold for spare change
 Now we are professionals: doctors, lawyers, and leaders of change
 Back then this skin symbolized “The inferior”; somewhat of an eye sore,
 Today our colors are celebrated; in fashion and all that artistic galore
 Back then we were black sheep considered to be “other”
 Today we unite, and believe each is the other’s brother
 Back then we were seen as shadows, only two-thirds of a citizen
 Today we see ourselves ‘African’ as much as we are ‘American.’

Antonio Lenyear
 March 25th 2012