

Hope in the shadows

This poem was written by Monica Ngcobo, traditional leader and coordinator of Mining Affected Communities in Action (MACUA), representing the community affected by the manganese mine in Northern Cape, South Africa.

*In the depths of marginalization, where voices are hushed,
a glimmer of hope flickers, like a candle in the rush,
of wind that whispers secrets, of a different way
to rise above the ashes, to seize the day.*

*The fuel foils the transitions, as communities resist
against the extractive forces, that would persist.
But still they rise, with solar panels high
harnessing the sun's power, to light the sky.*

**In the midst of struggle,
they find a way
to weave a new narrative,
of a brighter day,
where their lands are free,
from toxic decay,
and their future
is not mortgaged
to a fossilized way.**

*The marginalized communities, with hearts unbroken
find strength in resistance, and a spirit unspoken.
They fuel the transition, with every step they take
towards a world that's just, where their rights are at stake.*

**Their hope is a flame,
that burns like fire
guiding them forward,
through the darkest mire.
It's a hope that's rooted
in the earth below.
A hope that's connected,
to the land they know.**

*The fuel foils the transitions,
but they won't be swayed
for they know that a different world
is already on its way.
A world that's built on justice,
and the rights of all,
where the marginalized communities
can stand tall.*

