

Bathing in Alabaster Oceans

By: Micah Daniels

White-washing wasn't fast enough
I drowned quick in alabaster oceans
Tried to suffocate the black out of me
Thought straightening my hair enough
would make them forget the melanin that stained
I craved for them to see height
as our greatest difference
not the depth of my skin
And shallowness of theirs
"I don't see you as black"
Ignorance became praises
and I was addicted
Their holy water was laced with salt
that I thought would keep me quenched
It ended up just dry me out
My Sundays were spent
asking god to cleanse me of my sins
But on Monday the brown of my skin was still there

"Bathing in Alabaster Oceans" by Micah Daniels – Oak Park River Forest High School, Oak Park