

Brian H. Jackson is a member of the Carolina African American Writers' Collective from Jacksonville, NC. His writing appeared in *Fertile Ground: Memories & Visions 1996* with other members of the CAAWC. His work has also appeared in the North Carolina A & T State University journals *All That Jazz* and *Perceptions*. A multi-talented artist, Brian, also known as bhenrY, has performed with the Washington, DC ensemble group The Ozzidi Project, and wrote and performed three tracks on the CD *Unconditionally Yours*, including the title track, which paved the way for Lori Dow to capture the Best Jazz Female Vocalist at New England's First Annual Urban Music Awards in 2006.

sons of the dark

we cry unshed tears
our screams go unheard
questioning if our prayers
ride the wind without
a place of rest
never to be heard
by the one
who can hear them
we work all day
our bodies are beaten
by the sun
we work all night
our minds spin
like spools in sweatshops
our sleep
is not sleep
at all
for where
there is no peace
there is no rest
we the sons
of the dark
continue to march
hoping to shed
the pains
and regrets
of our fathers
correcting
the shame
of sons
after sons
and our march
will continue