



Can You See Me

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Informed by the Men in prison, 2 Cor 5:17

Can you see me

Behind my mask of doubt, pain, shame, pride, hate, hope, assurance, love, lose, victory
An image plain, glossy, opaque, translucent, transparent, constant, changing
Does my mask inform, conform, deform, reform, relate, restate, reinvigorate
Does it tell who I am what to be what to see
Can you see me

Is this mask forced upon or by my own choice
Do I hide behind or does it put me on display
Happy, sad, angry, content, searching, scared
Is it there of my making or was it there for the taking
Does it make me bold or behind it does the truth fold
Can you see me

And what do you see
Does my identity depend on the opinions you form
and if no then why is a mask my norm
Can I decide what influences the mask I project
Is it necessary for my core being to protect
And is it shaped by community, society, ethnicity, genealogy, philosophy
Can you see me

Do I echo the poet who said:
"Through the dark winter night I wait alone unable to reveal
Unwilling to summon the courage to feel"
Or the philosopher who claimed:
"Due to circumstances beyond my control
I am captain of my fate, master of my soul"
Or the musician who wrote:
"Shattered dreams, worthless years, here am I encased inside a hollow shell
Life began, then was done, now I stare into a cold and empty well"
Can you see me

Do I dare to stand before you, striped away, laid bare, exposed
Does life breath within
Can I find face, place, space, Grace from One above
That can shatter a mask and let bleed love
Now I look inside, and what I see is that anyone united with Messiah gets a fresh start, created new. Old
life gone; unique life burgeons through
Now I with unveiled face reflect the Lord's glory, transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory,
coming from the Lord who is Spirit most free
Fundamental, elemental, essential, eternal
A living presence not a piece of chiseled stone
Can I risk, hope, act, live, breath, believe
Do I dare
Can I remove the mask

Can you see me

