



They Thought They Could Stop Us

They turned the roads into pools of quicksand
sucking bodies into the earth.
Some young girls never made it home,
so other young girls never left their homes.
Anxiety was served to us in different forms
like assorted meat,
and nearly turned our schools into empty buildings.
They thought they could stop us,
but we taught ourselves the language of rebuilding,
we knew that education is a flashlight
we can use to reveal the details on dark roads.

They turned our girlhood into a delicacy
to be chewed down.
Tried to make us hawk our self-esteem to bidders.
Our mothers put us to sleep by reading bedtime
stories about a future where we are treated equally.
That place edges closer to my feet.
They thought they could stop us, they forgot
our voices were bullet proof.

They turned our wallets into deflated airbags.
Our mouths sing the chorus of songs like
'What will we eat tomorrow?',
Or 'Are we as worthy as those who have more?'.
We have resurrected the questions that plagued
our confidence and won't stop fighting until
an answer echoes back.
They thought they could stop us,
they forgot we taught ourselves how to turn passion
into a currency we could pay for a future with.

They thought they could starve our future,
but we passed education around like finger food,
and we won't stop till every girl is fed.