

## Telling

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What you risk telling your story:

You will bore them.  
Your voice will break, your ink  
spill and stain your coat.  
No one will understand, their eyes  
become fences.  
You will park yourself forever  
on the outside, your differentness once  
and for all revealed, dangerous.  
The names you give to yourself  
will become epithets.

Your happiness will be called  
bravery, denial.  
Your sadness will justify their pity.  
Your fear will magnify their fears.  
Everything you say will prove something about  
their god, or their economic system.  
Your feelings, that change day  
to day, kaleidoscopic,  
will freeze in place,  
brand you forever,  
justify anything they decide to do  
with you.

Those with power can afford  
to tell their story  
or not.  
Those without power  
risk everything to tell their story  
and must.

Someone, somewhere  
will hear your story and decide to fight,  
to live and refuse compromise.  
Someone else will tell  
her own story,  
risking everything.