

*"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations. If you adopt their attitudes, then the possibility won't exist because you'll have already shut it out... You can hear other people's wisdom, but you've got to re-evaluate the world for yourself."*

**Mae Jemison (1956- )**

American engineer, physician and NASA astronaut; first African American woman to travel in space; orbited aboard Space Shuttle "Endeavour" (1992)



## SHELTERING ARMS

Traveling roads unpaved in gold

A little brown girl

Enveloped by love

Did not know

Her brownness

Pre-destined her

For a life of non-achievement

Not silver spoon fed

A little brown girl

Enveloped by love

Did not know

She was predisposed

For failure...

And...

No one would care

Raised to live by the golden rule

A little brown girl

Enveloped by love

Did not know

Because of her brownness

She should accept shuttered doors

And lack of opportunities

BUT...

Because a little brown girl

Did not know

She was predestined

Or predisposed

She achieved

She did not accept failure

She opened shuttered doors

She grabbed opportunities

Because...

As a little brown girl

She was enveloped by love

And...

Sheltering arms, which supported her