

# MY VOICES

By Ashton Marley

*Poetry Editor Hezekiah writes: If youth is wasted on the young, it has yet to effect or affect Mister Marley. Here are some burning lines from a burgeoning poet. Someone we each wish we once were. I would be honored to hope that he, someday, looks back on them. HS*

My Voices

By: Ashton Marley

I hear voices in my head

They fight and disagree more times than not.

The voices in my head? They never shut up,

They never know when to quit, they're such a noisy lot.

One voice speaks of the goodness in my soul, the purity of what I may bring

Another speaks of the evil in my heart and revels in others suffering

There is a voice that encourages, pushes me to pursue my dreams

But no matter what

I am the last person I should trust

there is a voice that believes I can't do anything

One voice, always looks for the good in the world

Even when there is none

A voice tells me to quit,

It's at odds with those that say push on.

Some think five plus five is ten

And some are completely wrong.

These voices in my head,

I often wonder, from where they came

As I lie awake at night in bed

I ponder, if I'm the one to blame

Did I create these voices?

Are they a product of who I am?

Did they come to life through my choices?

Do they exist in a better man?

I think I remember life without them

Perhaps they'll still argue when I'm gone and dead

With all I don't know, one thing's for certain:

I hear voices in my head

**THE POET SPEAKS:** *The inspiration for My Voices is the inner monologues of man as he makes his way through everyday life. I believe that voices of doubt, along with those that inspire, and choosing which one to guide you to tomorrow is a subject that a lot of people don't like to*

*talk about. Mainly, because if worded incorrectly and without context, you run the risk of sounding like a schizophrenic. Nevertheless, finding the encouraging voice, in the sea of fear that could possibly be one's minds, is something some might find too hard. Everyone is in a battle to decide which voice in their head to listen to, hard fought or not.*

*One of my most early exposures to literature was Dr. Seuss. I know a lot of people would scoff at the idea of One Fish Two Fish being inspiring literature, but not I. The way Dr. Seuss always found a way to rhyme, and the unpredictability of the rhyming patterns in his work, to this day fascinates me. Couple this along with what I later found out was an uncanny ability to make beauty out of unimaginable darkness and you have a major influence about how in view the literary world. In my more dark and gothic writings, I take a large influence from Edgar Allen Poe.*

*Poetry is important to me because it allows for an artistic expression like no other. Whether you beat around the bush of your theme or you are up front with the motif in every stanza (if you have stanzas at all), anyone can share with the world a window to their beliefs and life. With every poem that is written a small part of someone new enters the universe in a different way. I have always been rather shit, at being up front with my thoughts, but through poetry, I'm brave enough to confess my love, challenge social norms and explore the world around me.*

**AUTHOR'S BIO:** *My name is Ashton Marley and I am currently in the United States Army. I have been in the army for a year and have never been published before. I like to write about stuff that could possibly get me sent to a psychiatrist.*