

Aleppo Runs the Hall

By Octavia McBride-Ahebee

...Aleppo now runs

a West Philly school hall

an open channel of enameled stone, a gateway to deliverance

a hallway

decorated

in

the celebratory p i l

l a g e of Indian headdress

and

black buckled hats

in the middle of autumn's b l o o m

a

he r m

s

with boyish rage powered by florescent

lights & ~~air~~ strikes of cemented erasure

through this cancer tale of thanks

to expel

in Arabic and newly minted

curses –Lancaster Ave. Bottom style-

of his own tale of proxy wars, of armed pilgrims

of ~~slain~~ empire

s

seizing the hand of his newest comrade, a boy,

brown and homeless; long destroyed by his city too

they rush

the hall

in self-destruction because to walk with measure

would bring no

relief

§ § §