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 & airstrikes 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

§ § §