



Aware

Ariana Ananda

Sinking in silence under the oil of success
Hearing the voices protest, confess
Muzzled by fear of burning alive
Shipwreck.

Watching, observing the game of power unfold
Treaties, agreements with death
Negotiating our last breath
Money talks?

The game ends in a stalemate
Pawns in their places, knights in midair
Frozen in time, queen and king once upon a time
Recalculating.

Pulling the strings, no longer attached
Shedding the shell of times past
Being here, there, everywhere
Aware.