

Woman of courage  
woman of power  
with the gift  
to nurture  
a silent world  
and bring forth  
sound and speech  
with the love  
to give your  
all abandoning self  
in devotion to your vision

You set off  
down an unknown path  
unsupported  
a pioneer  
you found the way  
and guided others  
building shelters  
for their needs

It seems  
they've deserted you  
worse  
attacked you  
tossed you out  
it seems  
they have stolen  
your creations  
taken the prizes  
for themselves

It seems that way  
but it's not so  
no-one can steal  
your victory  
you've laid the path  
with your bare hands  
they only  
stroll along it

Young lives have been  
forever changed  
living evidence  
of your efforts  
more little ones  
as yet unborn  
will profit  
from your struggles

I know the pain  
sears deep  
to your soul  
I cannot ease  
the burning  
but I offer you  
my colleague  
my friend  
such awe and admiration  
no-one can match  
your bounteous skills  
or minimize  
your victory

You've done it alone  
against the tide  
you've proven  
your strength  
and courage  
it's their limits  
not yours  
that sear  
your soul  
it's your talent  
not theirs  
that has made it

They want you  
as a victim  
of their fear  
and their greed  
they want to loot  
and conquer

but they'll find  
only empty buildings  
and unreadable signs  
for the secrets  
are held in your heart

For a time  
you might need  
to cloak yourself  
in sadness  
in anger  
in hurt  
but the day will come  
when the wounds  
will heal over  
you'll emerge  
feel your strength  
and beat  
the thundering drum  
little children  
lost in silence  
will hear you  
once again

*For Gaye with love*

*Daphne*

