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Elegy for an Ant

MICHAELA KOP

Creative Writing

There have been countless times throughout history and even in today's social and political environment in which those in places of prestige and influence have acted impulsively and without much consideration for others. This leads to the "death of the ant" or downfall of the common person all for selfish decisions disguised as leadership. My fellow ants, I urge you to decide carefully which people are worthy of our support, for the wrong ones may one day step on us.

ELEGY FOR AN ANT

How big I am
How small you are

My whim, your fate
And for my carelessness,
You paid the price in blood.

For there was no escape for you
From my heavy boot
And yet, the foot at fault walks on

But you will walk no more.
Your body crumpled on the floor
Tossed aside, blown away
You shall not see another day

For how big I am
How small you are

And as you lay upon the grass
And take your dying breath
You share one last thing with the world:
A lesson in your death

You're just one ant of thousands
And common as a penny
Just another little bug
Yes, just one life of many

But it was all that you could be
It was your only. Your everything.
What does that mean to me?

For how big I am
And how small you are.



I am currently a first-year undergraduate student here at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am majoring in Molecular Cell Biology and hope to later work as a professor or a physician. I tend to gravitate toward math and the natural sciences, but recently I've discovered a love for literature as well. In an attempt to widen my range, so to speak, I read some poetry collections over the summer and became inspired by their powerful messages and striking imagery. This poem was written to make a statement about leadership and class conflict. Of the poems I've written so far, this is one of my favorites, so I'm thankful for this opportunity to share it.