"The Gathering Place" – Amanda Gorman

Inspired by the 2017 Social Good Summit

On the corner of East 92nd and Lexington
Under congested incandescence of pulsing city
the world bends itself into a village.
Here: our great gathering place.

A space on hot, laughing earth
Where we stretch room for others beside us
where closed doors are far too tight for
the giant that is hope to grow.
Every idea an open sea
Every voice a boat voyaging the bank of blue.

We, a village, a dancing city,
meet among the the music of concrete and steel
where subway cars, ride the beat of hustle and heel.

In this village we string together the continents
in the palm of one building
With one microphone, we streak
across the globe like an eclipse
We strike our plans into stone
and from this we build a summit worth climbing,
a goal worth reaching,
a world worth building.

Like this place,
Our village is one of striking shapes and deeds
where cultures and languages jive like seeds

Village to Cynthia Erivo, London miracle, whose voice rips
open the sky from the mountaintop of the stage
Village to Pete Cashmore, who at my age built
a gathering site for the courageously curious and obstinately obsessive
Village to ElsaMarie D'Silva, who took her own pain to carve
out a thick roof of voices for assaulted women.

These are the types of villagers we are—
We eat away our hunger
With our appetite for goodness
we breathe rivers into throats
with our voices for change.

Today
in the spine of this meeting ground,
new city, new village, we’ve reached a summit,
and are ready to loudly name another.
This be hope, this be home,
we are hope, we are home,
we be vigilant,
we be united, we be good,
we do good, we are good,
as we should
in the place where a millennium stood
for what we understood
was
right.

On the corner of hope and drive,
Under the question of open sky
sprawls our great gathering site.

In this village
We make the globe a little smaller
So we can dream bigger,
so the dream need not wait.

Here in this gathering,
we do good so that the world
might be great.