Disability and Shame
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We Walk Through Corridors

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Abstract: The shame surrounding the construct of disability strikes at the very context of an individual's soul. The overcoming of shame associated with a learning disability diagnosis is a journey. To be free requires the inner looking into the core of self, once viewed and acknowledged healing enters. In this journey the individual is held by hands greater than their own. The path of healing is an individual passage and choice.

We Walk Through Corridors

Passing through Shame,
Only known to self.
Mirrored reflections,
Of who we were,
Of who we are,
and
Who we hope,
We will become.
This Ph.D. Journey,
Lonely is the road,
At times.
Decisions to make,
Fears to face.
It's not the course work,
That's difficult.
It is what the coursework,
Asks of us.
To step outside of our assumptions,
To embrace our fears,
we strive to pass,
and place imposter syndrome,
High upon a shelf,
We can only reach.
Remaining ever hopeful,
The journey will sustain,
Bringing us,
More than the title,
More than the academic hood.

That the journey,
Will bring us further,
To the truth of self.
This mirrored reflection,
We call truth.

Lisa Boskovich, M.S., is a Doctoral Candidate in the Donna Ford Attallah College of Educational Studies at Chapman University in Orange, California with an emphasis in Disability Studies. Her research interests include, fathers who have a child on the autism spectrum, and the phenomenological master narratives of individuals with learning disabilities. Lisa is currently working as a Research Assistant at the Thompson Policy Institute on Disability and Autism.