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Poetry Contest on a “Sense of Place” 2025

Winner: *A place to belong* by Hamza Masri (Germany)

A Place to Belong

I came with a suitcase of whispers,
Tied with threads of distant skies,
Carrying dreams that felt like shadows,
And a map that led to unfamiliar lives.
The streets spoke a tongue I didn't know,
Their rhythm foreign, their melody shy.
Every corner, a question unanswered,
Every face, a mirror of why.
I stumbled through days of translation,
Learning to speak in the language of here,
Yet my heart clung tight to the echoes of
then,
A symphony of what I held dear.
The walls of my home wore no pictures,
Only silence and a longing for sound.
But slowly, the cracks let the light in,
And I felt the earth grow steady, profound.
Integration was not a bridge but a tide,
Pulling, receding, shaping the sand.
I lost pieces of myself in the water,
But found new ones in this strange, vast
land.
I learned the art of beginning again,
Of sowing roots in reluctant ground,
A garden of hope growing quietly,
Though storms of doubt would still
Surround



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The food on my plate tasted different at
first,
Yet the spices began to harmonize.
My story intertwined with others,
Weaving a fabric no thread denies.
Now, I walk with the steps of two lives,
One behind and one ahead.
The past whispers softly, the future hums,
And I find my place between the
frequencies of their sounds.
Belonging is not a moment but a journey,
A dance of loss, a song of gain.
In the fusion of then and now, I flourish,
For even in struggle, beauty remains.