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The Story of a Marked Man

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The Story of a Marked Man
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There I stood
   a marked man.
Marked with this sign
that cries out to the world
   of my faults,
       my shortcomings,
       my sin.
Sin that runs much deeper
than the superficial mark made
   by soot and ash.
This mark, so easily removed,
is nothing but a reminder
that my sin is much harder to vanquish.
For that…there is work to be done.
To be authentic….real.
To honor the act
   of receiving this mark in the first place.
A lot to be done.
A tall order for forty days.
And yet, like the markings
That have come in years before
Each honored in their own way
   by the work on self which followed
Until, once again, like the phoenix,
I rise
From ashes to glory
From darkness into the Son

[unsigned]