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Collection of three poems: Diatribe, Proverb of Futility & Salve

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Diatribes

*Stubborn curls
Ironed into smooth submission*

*Mascara shrouded eyes
Refusing to cry*

*Full lips, stained crimson
Concealing childhood secrets*

*Uncommon beauty
Dusted in powder
Misted with fragrance*

*"Bruja"**

*"Zángana"****

*"Molleja"*****

*Unappreciated beauty
Covered in insults
Assaulted with words*

* Spanish word for witch

** Derogatory Spanish word akin to good for nothing

*** Puerto Rican racial slur

Proverb of Futility

Train up a child in the way he should go...

Train?

*"I think I can!" said the little engine***

Hushed voices from the other side of the wall

"He's stupid"

"I think, I can." thought the little child

"I don't want anything to do with him"

"Can I?"

"He's not my son"

*... and when he is old, he shall not depart from them**

*Proverbs 22:6

** Piper, Watty. "The Little Engine that Could"

Salve

Ulcerated... leprous
A soothing touch
With tapered fingers and lacquered nails
She bandaged my soul

Atrophic... Paralytic
A spoken caress
With gentle words and graceful phrases
I anointed her feet

A vow
A promise
Love will dwell here