

[New Year's Eve Poem] Like a Semicolon

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The past year recedes like
a chameleon's tongue— a miss,
I am not taken.
Before my mirror, wiped with
the nectaring newness of the year,
I am the visage of a boy styling
his life into a poem, resolute
to say more, to do more,
like a semicolon;

Bryan Obinna Joseph Okwesili is a queer Nigerian poet and storyteller, keen on telling diverse African queer stories. His works explore the interiority and tensions of queerness in a heteronormative culture in which he imagines a world of inclusivity. He is a two times Pushcart nominee (2020/2021) and a Finalist for Tupelo Quarterly Open Fiction Prize. His works have appeared and are forthcoming in *Craft*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Slice mag*, *Isele*, *Foglighter Press*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Brittle Paper*, *Litro*, and elsewhere. He is currently a student of Law at the University of Calabar, Calabar.