

Section 1: Silence

Silence. It is a force with the power to transform us or leave us feeling isolated and lonely. The power of silence is one that has roots across ancient civilizations, where meditating, sitting with oneself, and being able to commune with our inner parts can move us deeply. Yet in today's world of unrest, chaos, and loneliness, where we pine for community, silence can leave us feeling stripped of connection as we yearn for anyone around us to speak up and stand in solidarity. Particularly through experiences of marginalization, silence often abandons voices to wither on their own, creating a void leaving wounds deep, often unintentionally, by many around us.

While we honor the power of silence, we also highlight the necessity of solidarity, not only through words but also through action in the stories you are about to read. We invite you to sit in silence and reflect on what moves you, what troubles you, what questions you, and what you question. We invite you to think about the complexity of silence and how each of us can take responsibility to break through it.

The stories within this section provide a glimpse into ways in which silence can leave us hurting, retreating, and withdrawing in pain, however unintentional that pain may be. We come back to our moments of silence to move us, transform us, commit us to our own journeys. We come back to our moments when we know silence must be broken so that we remind ourselves of the importance of solidarity and community.

