A letter to call upon when you need it
Angela M. Brommel

— in conversation with Walking with Purpose, Solidarity, and Grit by Orlando Javier Montenegro-Cruz and the students of the Nepantla Program, acrylic on canvas, 2019.

One night you will wake up, unsettled, grab a book to read a passage that once brought you light.

Finding comfort, you will go to bed again.

You will return to this book many times over the years. Don't hold onto the heartache of standing there again. Hold on to the knowledge that you know truth and where to find it.

Turn off the light and call upon your brightest memories.

For mothers and fathers who saved money on the right side of their sock drawer, near the box with your baby teeth and a lock of hair from your first haircut so that you could pursue your dreams.

For the grandmothers and grandfathers who kept their nickels and dimes in a glass jar to give you boxes of books for birthdays and holidays.

For partners, siblings, and children who called your work heroic so that you might remember that what we do for ourselves creates a path of possibility for others.

For aunties and uncles, for teachers and librarians, for friends and community who kept you fed at mouth
and heart.

Remember the people who held you, they are tributaries to your truth.

Remember that you are a wonder of nature surrounded by the butterfly, the hummingbird, the coyote, the scorpion, and a mountain within a range in a valley that holds you in its palm, beloved.

When you find yourself in a heap at the bottom of the staircase that, this time, seems too much to climb, convinced that this time you and your heart are broken —

What if this is the breaking open?

Like water seeking its own level, this is your return.

May you love the sunlight and the moonlight. May you guard your wholeness so that you may light the path for others.

May you know that all work is honorable, and that your work and your purpose are often not the same.

May you practice your purpose in solidarity, with the grit required for mending yourself and the portion of this world that is yours to heal.

**Angela M. Brommel**
Henderson, Nevada

Delivered on August 5, 2022 at the Summer Bridge Graduation and 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Nepantla Program at Nevada State College.