

**Diana Lewis**  
*Perception*

Perception magnified  
Eye of the beholder  
    Hearts blazing a river of fire  
    While others are smoldered  
An enchanted dance  
Of fire and ice  
    The conclusion of chance  
    Is the water—falling?  
Or drying up in the heat? Of what U seek or  
Of the SUN—\* R U enticed  
    365 Degrees, U & Me  
    Where all we see  
Is steel fences topped by barbed wire  
And all white bricks  
    Is it social disorder  
    Caged by selfish desire or  
A funeral pyre? Catching fire?  
Ashes blowing in the wind  
    Destruction of all the locked-away sins  
    In and out, up and down  
I wonder—  
Do U see what's pulling me under?  
I hear the sounds of lyrical thunder—  
    Lightning strikes a powerful blast  
    This too will come to pass  
Cloudbursts release falling rain  
You can grow new life  
    Or enhance your pain  
    Attitude  
Strong state of mind  
Perception personified  
    When U stand 4 something strong  
    It will stand 4 U  
A real leader has heart and follows  
Their inner truth—  
    Perception misguided  
    Dissed, missed, dice rolled, cards fold  
A gambler's infatuation  
As your legacy is sold, my bad told

What's your motivation?  
We need 2 stop playing roles  
And transform—  
From the norm  
    Uniqueness is a thunderous strength  
    Control a devious rank  
Perception—  
Like so many small stones on the ground  
Many different colors and shapes  
    Coming together to form a foundation  
    Not to placate  
Or replicate  
But 2 shine individually  
    For their difference yet be equal  
    That makes perception an equal opportunity  
REALITY  
Not a fatality!  
    What's your PERCEPTION?