

The Pendulum Swings

bloodmuffins

8/14/2021

I wake up eager and excited for the day - the day of gathering of my people
I don garments and gear to express my most authentic self
Tail, collar, ears, affirming shirt
I join in the chatter and feel at home

The clock ticks as the professional event draws near
I anxiously count down and disrobe my affirmative garb
Unbuckle the collar, remove the ears, change into a polo
It wrenches my heart to do so - why can I not just be me in front of everyone?

I leave the tail on
A hidden rebellion afforded by the internet
After all, I need only be professional from the waist up
I feel a swell of warmth from within knowing I can hold onto myself

The professional event ends
Quick! Time to change back
Tail, collar, ears, affirming shirt
I eagerly rejoin my people - comfort in my soul once again

Back and forth the pendulum swings
Nonhuman, professional, nonhuman, professional
Both deeply me
But still hiding

What a testament to the blending I've already done
That I can attend both events in one weekend
What a wrenching reminder of how far there is to go
To have the pendulum swing so intensely