

Marlanda Dekine-Sapient Soul

Marlanda Dekine-Sapient Soul (she/her/they/them) is a poet and fourth-generation land steward living on family land in Plantersville, South Carolina. She is the author and recording artist of *i am from a punch & a kiss*. Her work is set towards freedom and liberation, continuing to learn with and from Black folx across the globe.



Three Poems

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How To Stay In Your Body When Someone Wants You Out Of It

My great-great granduncle fled Plantersville, South Carolina one night
After being called a nigger by a white man and answering
That white man's body with a knife quick
He dug in and got out of town

I am told he always came back down South to visit
In his shiny car with arms full of gifts for children
One might ask which is worse:
A word or a knife?

I heard about how I come from an old place
How I was taken from circles of sinners and saints
How transmissions from thousands of years ago
Speak to me today

How love permeates distances
That intellect cannot answer
Having saved ourselves from monsters, one might ask:
Is there a difference?

Granddaddy's Tools

I am thirty-three
It is the first time

I have put my hands
On a shovel

And drove it into the earth
It is the first time

I feel
My dead granddaddy alive inside of me

And I am digging a hole
To put me in

With granddaddy's shovel
My daddy yells for me to stop

Lying in the middle
Of granddaddy's field of grasses

Says the moisture
Will make me sick but

My ears have a new fear filter and
I am listening to Spirit

I am not dying today I say
I am being reborn

Daddy go
And fetch the water

Here comes the Sun!

A Queer Meditation

Today, I woke up and I didn't rush to do a thing
I let my hands touch one another

Their softness caught me off guard
I watched the intimate folding of my glistening

Digits in shadow and damp bedsheets
I went and stood under the shower

I let water wash purple all through
My body and worries

I watched it all swirl
Into a pool beneath my feet

Today, I thanked my feet for all the worlds
I have walked in and out of

Today, I woke up
Kissed my born again self