

## **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