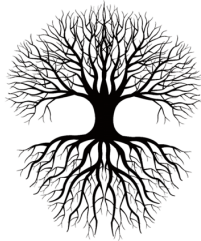


## Kimberly Love

Kimberly S. Love is a storyteller whose practice is rooted in ancestry and southern ground. Born and raised between Huntsville, Alabama, and Georgiana, Alabama, her poems and short stories carry the wisdom and ways of her elders, her hometown communities, and most especially, the nearby woods. Love is a teacher, a former English professor who received her Ph.D. in English Language and Literature from the University of Virginia. A published contribution to Root Work Journal will allow Love to continue planting Earth-bound wisdom. She hopes to inspire people to reflect on their own relationship to Earth in meaningful, tangible ways.



# PACHAMAMA

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*This poem urges us to claim our intimacy with Mother Earth, especially during seasons of social collapse and distress.*

## **Lay with Mother.**

Resuscitate her Drum with heartbeats.  
Watch her melody soar through trees;  
Synchronize her Song.  
Be the Ground like être.  
Quiver with madness that  
Erupts in fields of lavender.  
For Land and tribe will  
Heal in the mourning.  
Though we rest,  
Mother kneads us near.  
For she's  
Routing our tears for Flint,  
Letting blood for Indus,  
Bathing Heaven in glorious  
Weeping.

Wail with Mother.  
Echo Her Pulse with footwork that  
Taps asphalt into ash/e.  
Sleepless Mother,  
We awaken you to  
Swaddle Death in bògòlanfini:  
May all return black  
Warriors of the Soil.  
For we're  
Deploying seeds,  
Saluting green,  
Raising "Everything to the Tree;"  
Moving mountains with hands and heels.  
For we know tomorrow  
Fills porous rocks  
Below.