

J A H L A N I

jahlani is an artist, a writer, a lover, a yogini, a reiki healer, a dancer, a goddess, a fairy dragon, a mermaid, a person, and a sovereign being... more than

anything she is curious and she flows in her ocean of love, compassion, and patience. She advocates for mental health care to help people learn to overcome childhood trauma, abuse, and neglect. She teaches people breathwork and sensual movement for the purpose of their soul's growth. She believes in the power of dance and music to help bring us into the here and now to truly honor the sacredness of all life with reverence

I represent those who went through life experiences and trials that they thought they wouldn't ever overcome yet miraculously did through Ancestral veneration, gratitude, prayer, and joy.

I hope to honor my Ancestors by submitting my piece to this journal and share my gift with others in my community.

UnCharted Waters: Universal Womb, Blackness, and Alchemizing Shit To Gold

C U N T is derived from 'Kunda' or 'Cunti', a Hindu Goddess who represented the power and beauty of the female body. This word symbolizes the Yoni (Vagina) of the Universe, The Universal Womb, from whence we all came and to which we will all return for regeneration and rebirth. From this same root, the words 'Country', 'Kin', and 'Kind' are derived. The Universal Womb is the dark, wet space where we are all born. The place where our energetic frequencies come into alignment with destiny to bring us out of The Void of Darkness.

The Eternal Life Bringer of Unconditional Love from Mama Earth, the Moon, the Ocean, the female principle, the receptive force, the nourishing waters. Negative, silent, wise, solace from harsh conditions, a sweet reminder of Divinity, a force to be reckoned with, yet a reprieve from the onslaught of life... In our country, something that all of us have in common, alllll of our kin, all of our relations, is that we have been birthed forth from the Cunt, from the Universal Womb.

We all have splashed forth from the dark, chaotic waters of the Universal Mother's oceans. She is dark destructress, tearing away that which has held us back or threatened our capacity for joy. She asks that we sacrifice our ego in order to live in love. Love which sometimes tough, which is discipline, which is self-control. She is light goddess, bringing forth that which births our creations into the world. She tends the soil. She pulls the weeds. She creates gold from shit. She is kind mother and fierce protectress of her children. She is the Alchemist in the greatest sense. In the huge, unmarked grave of the Atlantic Ocean where our Ancestors were meant to die an undignified death, with their lives unimportant and their stories untold, by the power of remembrance, the power of reverence, they pulled forth more life, more traditions, more stories to tell.

These gifts were passed on to our Ancestors by spirits greater than them yet these energies exist inside and alongside them. In times when we were told we weren't human, we learned that that was OK. We didn't need to be human. We don't need to be colonized. We didn't need to be civilized, crunched down into a viewpoint, a box of who they say we should be. We became something else. We became channels and vessels of the Most High Creator. We became magicians, witches, warlocks, and wizards. We became scientists, mathematicians, and chefs.

We allowed our Souls to pour fully into our bodies to bring forth majesty and wonder. In the bleakest of situations, the darkest of times, when the rain was hailing into those slaves ships, when there was the heaviest of fogs and we were unable to see 10 feet ahead, we learned to inhabit the realm of the Spirits. We learned to take on forces and energies greater than human, in order to live to see another day. In order for our children to be able to live in liberation from the bondage of slavery, degradation, and colonization. In order for our children to feel as Sovereign beings in this world, able to create that which only existed in their imaginations before.

We learned how to create good food, edible food from the shit they gave us. We learned how to clean water and how to be water. We learned how to dance when our foot was caught in the trap. We learned how to swim when they pushed our heads underneath the cool, dark water to drown us. We learned how to see, blindfolded and hear what was unsaid. When we were placed in the cage of animal and then the cage of human, our Ancestors asked us to open ourselves to the possibility of Us being something Greater, something Else, an encompassment of Everything... to break past limitations placed over our eyes, to write with our hand cut off, to fly with broken wing...

We are the Ocean, infinitely abundant and full of life yet able to bring death and destruction in the storm. Able to become still in the Eye of the Storm. We are the Moon... cool, soothing, and nourishing. We are the Stars, chaos burning bright in the dark night. We are the Rhythm of the Drum, dancing as the Dirt between our bare feet. We are the Sun in the Sky making its way around the Earth which we also Are. We are each as a precious drop of sweat or blood, unique with special DNA properties which allows us to exist beyond the lens that has been placed upon us.

Our Ancestors asked us to step up and show up. We learned to walk as Gods and Goddesses on this Earth. We learned to flow into Divinity, not denying the resilience of our Souls. This is a Truth we all hold, that we sometimes forget, lost in the collective amnesia, in hypnotized agendas, in Ancient wars between Powers that we cannot fully comprehend. Still, our Ancestors ask of us to hold our heavy heads up, to fill our expansive hearts with love vibrations, and BE. To accept ourselves in the fullness of who we are. Benevolent, giving, loving, rising. Fighting, rebelling, overcoming.

We are the Dualistic Nature of the Universe, coming Together in Unity. We are Darkness. We Bad. We Black. We are Light. We Good. We Are. I Am. The Great I Am. In these Uncharted Waters we swim, giving thanks for keeping the fire burning through lessons learned. Born from the primordial mother, out of the darkness of her womb we came forth to share our gifts, our light with our community, our country, our kind, our kin...

