puerto rican discovery number 38: poem for my people

i wish i could tell you how beautiful you are
how you emerged from the darkness of an ancient mud mother
who breathed life into your rainforest root
into the cordillera symmetry of the heights of you
from the birthplace of your indian nature soul
your african freedom dreams, your spanish wandering songs
that merged coqui wind turquoise ocean
cricket and stone mountain into your tambor
into the agua mariposa strings of your guitar
into the palma coco azucar of your mambo
into the clave of volcano fire marking time inside your conga
into the griffa guasabara inside your chachacha
mesclando raices from the quantum universe of you

i wish i could open your eyes to see how you are divine child
descendant of kings warrior priest tribal magicians
how your music is the seasonal dance of sun and moon
how you and the land are of one blood
fused from the fountain of many rivers
a rainbow chemistry in the silk of your skin

i wish i could serve you this great feast of yourself
promised to calabasa born babies burned brown from tropical heat
parched by the desert of harsh city streets

i wish i could heal you from your sea of tears
remove blindfolds that led you away
break shackles that encased your spirit
transcend boundaries of bitter tongues and closed minds

i wish i could scream loud for you
undo every humiliation you endured
shout down all walls that imprisoned you
unlock all doors that were closed to you
clear all blocked roads that would not let you pass
break the spell of all lies that keep you sleeping in the abyss
calm the turbulence raging in all your tomorrow horizons
give you back all that was stolen of your hidden wealth
feed you wisdom nectar from your sweet well of life

i wish i could show you that you are more than a flag
your hands stronger than chains that bound them
your words more powerful than a gun
your thoughts faster than the speed of light
your knowledge greater than can be found in all books

i wish i could paint that picture of cosmic galaxies in your gypsy eyes
that gallop and stride the path through your distant journey into light

i wish i could explain that the world is within your reach
weaver that you are,
that everything you need you already own
that all possibilities of becoming are inherited in your DNA
through the power of all who came before us
through the voices of those who are kin to our blood
albizu campos, betances, de burgos, soto vélez
capetillo, de hostos, guevara, agueybana
guionex, anacaona, geronimo, urayoan
schomburg, malcolm, king, sojourner truth

i wish i could dream for you
and mold the paradigm of your awakening
deep from within the treasure of your inner being
like mysteries revealed to you in celestial dreams

i wish i could give this gift to you
this abundant love beyond time and space
this kiss that lifts your soul to dance
this prayer that finds you when you are lost
this aphrodisiac nurturing that believes in you unconditionally
that accepts your perfection in the moment of this now

i wish i could look into the mirror of you
reflect back your sacred holy ground
hold you up to the sunlight of yourself
remove all harm and lead you home
where angels play on steps to your door

be the mother and father who give you eternal life
be the sister and brother always by your side
talking, sharing, believing, trusting, as you grow beyond yourself
guiding you through this journey we must all complete on our own

i wish i could give you all these things
i wish i could.

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