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# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Odu Ode: Two Poems

Odu Ode · Saturday, August 29th, 2020

### late candle or undoing our colonization

we left our smiles  
on other people's teeth —  
it fitted them

like a souvenir  
of groceries.

& when we tried  
retrieving them,  
they've been embalmed &  
soaked in the mien

of a clan  
consumed by carnage

we hoped we never inherit  
back what we lost to chivalry —  
empurpled wax spray her semen  
upon our womb  
until we  
procreated hate after hate  
after hate after hate after hate  
after hate after hate after hate...  
till we lost our wombs & ovaries  
& everything that holds foetus  
& toddlers  
& & & kids

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writing to my clans or reminding my shadow of them

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Dear Shadow,

i am an offspring of four clans:  
a rope / formaldehyde / open wounds / saltwater

you know every fold in my flesh  
where i tuck my weaknesses  
i hope i won't live tucking more of you  
into broken shards of my heart.

now, that you know the size of my bed // and areas in my pillows // wet with my regrets // please //  
do not wash my linen // in a thirsty lake

i call you dear  
forcing my tongue to fit  
into lies it fails to recognize  
like a mien of doubt  
i live to tell my stories backwardly

die don't please  
day this on  
heart my when  
you only recognizes

my doubts are empurpled by doubts / but you are a calligraphy of another song / of demons  
escaping our body / another hope / another flower we buried in epidermis of a smile we'd wear  
/tomorrow / or a day after tomorrow / or a day after / or a week to come / or a month / or a year/ or  
in the grave / or our bones / or the trees that'd grow on us / or our fears / or our chiseled tongues /  
or ...

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