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# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Syd Leilani: “My Thirsty Roots”

Syd Leilani · Wednesday, March 4th, 2020

### My Thirsty Roots

One, Two, Three  
who are fearful about going on their knees  
did he get pulled over because of the law?  
Or simply for the bigger crime that was inevitable of thee?  
Black history, is this me?

I had no control over what I was being born into,  
yet if I was given a choice to try again  
I would still pick the same shoes,  
the same clothes,  
the same eyes,  
and family...  
in this case, my skin defines me

the embedded black history scares me  
even though I'm a black woman  
American history is far beyond my cup of tea  
I'm just unsure where to find the truth of my history  
because I know it didn't begin with the fact of slavery.

I've never appreciated my ancestors' glory  
and the strength behind their untold stories  
the constant battles they've fought  
with all of those insecurities it brought  
to my thirsty roots,  
I'm sorry...

But is it my fault,  
for never embracing a side of me  
that was ever taught  
searching for black history seems negligible  
because as the history books began  
the choice of slavery can appear questionable.

How can I explain to my future children  
what's in store for them?  
When every time we expect a change  
history itself repeats  
causing lives to once again rearrange,  
so why complain about this,  
when this, is America.

To my thirsty roots,  
I'm sorry  
for the centuries of pain and agony  
you had to endure  
for the tears, you cried  
when brothers were being lost left to right,  
I'm sorry.

To my actual roots,  
I'm sorry...  
for always combing through your curls  
and never embracing your length  
it seems as if society put you as a stereotype  
for being ugly and unmanageable  
the straighter you were made me more fashionable

One, Two, Three  
To my thirsty roots,  
I'm sorry.

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