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SOIL

Quiana Lovett

“After a period of fasting I had a vision where I had his hands, and I saw myself planting corn.
The hands were my hands and then they turned into my great-grandfather’s hands.”

If we as a people could all have this vision, this vision of our ancestors toiling in the ground, it would change how we feel about gardening. We would change the negative associations that we have with the soil.

But suing the pain and trauma our ancestors endured to cultivate our land, allowing the sweat that ran off their foreheads and the tears that ran off their faces, the blood from the master’s lashing pushing all of that into the ground to create something beautiful.

That is where healing takes place.

Mother Earth and all the love that she gives is yearning for the love in return.

“In the black dirt under fingernails, melanated work under the sun and calloused hands, ancient rhythms, ancestral superpowers germinate.”

This type of knowledge and learned behavior, if passed down the generations will continue to flow for generations to come.

If the idea that farming is sustainable spread, the rates of black death would decline tremendously.



Artwork by Quiana Lovett

The idea that eating processed food is a sign of wealth has held the black community bound for quite some time.

Pumping money into designer clothes, fast food corporations, buying diamonds.

All of our buying puts pressure on and destroys the earth, the only earth that supports human life.

But what I've realized is that Mother Earth has endured years and years of trauma.

She is still surviving and thriving.

In the same way Black people have endured centuries of trauma and we continue to thrive.

We've been separated from the fundamentals of being one with the earth means.

Our DNA is embedded within the grains and sand and dirt.

Even though it killed millions of people I feel like COVID gave the earth time to replenish herself.

It allowed the trees to breathe, the soil to flourish, the plants to prosper, and the insect to roam.

We, as a people, need to learn from our ancestors as well as Mother Earth.

If we continue to destroy the earth, the earth will continue to destroy us.

Volcanoes, hurricanes, tornadoes are all the earth's way of showing us that she is angry with humanity.

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