AJI AYA BOMBE

VALOIS J VERA

I am breath
A mist
A mountain top
kissed by hurricane's lips

I am pleasure
I am pain
Bones of past remains

AJI AYA BOMBE!

I am bronze
Copper, tin
reflecting resistance within

I am rhythms
Merengue
Salsa
Bachsta
Horns and percussion
Songs of revolution

I am land
The soil of my people
Pillaged by winds and waters
Colonial dollars
Yet, still producing crops, and sons, and daughters

AJI AYA BOMBE!

I am nature
Silk-cotton tree towering over ravaged land
Devouring darkness
La ceiba blooming bounty and beauty

I am sugar cane
Tall
deeply rooted

I am mango
Succulent
exotic

I am tree frog
Yo soy de aqui, como el coqui!
Midnight melodies
Mating call symphonies

AJI AYA BOMBE!

I am metropolis
Stillness within the chaos
Overlooking shorelines and tree lines, and forest vines

I am ancestor
Noble island
La isla del Encanto
Taino rebellion refusing to relinquish

AJI AYA BOMBE!

I am god
Yahweh
Yucahu
Atabey
El Sol del Jayuya uprising

I am rest
I am grave
I am better dead than slave

Valois J. Vera is a Disabled Poet, Author, and Cultural Worker based out of so-called Denton, TX. They are the author of three collections of poetry: *Crip Lyrics: the Unapologetic Poetry of Disability* (POOR Press, 2021), *I, The Revolution* (self-pub., IngramSpark, 2023), and *Love, Liberation, and Other Longings* (Read or Green Books, 2024). Valois is the Founder of *Thunder and Lightning Poetry Collective*; a movement dedicated to amplifying and uplifting the work of Disabled BIPOC and Disabled Queer poets and creatives.

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