Etna

How do we know who God is actually speaking to?
Is He speaking to racists?
Or the shop owner that follows Black customers around?
The father and son who pile into the pick-up to hunt for a neighborhood jogger?
Is He speaking to the pastor
who buys luxury homes and cars while the congregation tithes for mercy?
Or to the platform preacher
condemning the queer-less-than-woman, on her way to work,
to hell?
Or the father threatening to disown his first born?
Is He speaking to the mother
who straps her toddlers in a van and plows it into a body of water?
Is He speaking to the bombers before they strap destruction to their chests?
Or the officer before he pulls the trigger?
Is He speaking to the drunk driver doing 100mph on a busy Texas freeway?
Or the silent whispers from the barrel of a gun
into the ear of a person at the end of their rope?
Is He speaking to the poor, the houseless, the loveless?
Does He say, “Stay that way! You can handle this battle! Don’t give up!”
Is He speaking to his toughest soldiers
on their deathbeds?
Does He simply say, “You hadda good run, my child!” and close the curtains?
Is His voice deep? Is it loud? Does He know what that book says about Him? About me?
Does He believe it?
Does He evolve?
Is He passionate about anything other than His own will?
Is He speaking to anyone
who will listen?
Is He even speaking?

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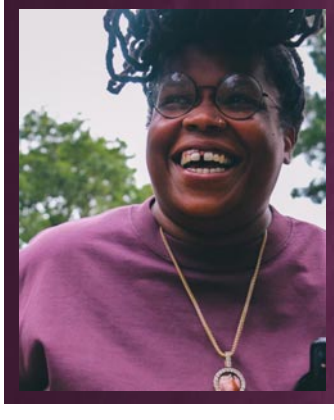

Roya Marsh

Bronx, New York native, Roya Marsh is a nationally recognized poet, performer, educator and activist. She is the author of *dayliGht (MCDxFSG, 2020)* and works feverishly toward LGBTQIA+ justice and dismantling white supremacy. Roya is the co-founder of the Bronx Poet Laureate initiative, a PEN America Emerging Voices Mentor, 2021 faculty with Lamda Literary's Writer's retreat for Emerging LGBTQ+ Voices and the awardee of the 2021 Lotus Foundation Prize for poetry. Roya’s work has been featured in numerous places including, The Academy of American Poets, Poetry Magazine, the Village Voice, Nylon Magazine, Huffington Post, The Root, Button Poetry, Carnegie Hall, The Apollo Theater, Lexus Verses and Flow, NBC, BET and The BreakBeat Poets Vol 2: Black Girl Magic(Haymarket 2018). Find out more & help to support Black futures at BLKJOY.COM