Cobalt Poets Series # 548 ~ November 8, 2022

GAYUMA CALIFORNIA

Sabaw ng suso ko / caning rosary / fetishize, *may langhap* / sugar cane, but sober / tiny feet step on your back / ash and immaculate conception / *tutung sa ilalim* / stare with *tabliya* / thirty days in black / sixty in front of veil / there is something / burning in *Taal* / duck egg falls / its embryo, an orphan / *akyat na sa hagdan* / *mano po, lola* / out on street corners

saliva and guava leaves /
walis tingting for practical magick in these inlets

We walk, we *mangkukulam*, ***brujeria*** rains all through Holy Week, but we wait to drink it Easter Sunday, we take a swig once more, All Saints dusk / dawn All Souls, we learned that in catechism, on our knees, your prayer books in our hands, while your cock served our mouths, you said it was Holy Eucharist, how the white bread makes us suffer for our trespasses against you. We smashed the Goddess on our altar for your Kingdom

to come all over us

We *mangkukulam*, blink you out, you are shard lodged in our Third Eye, Old Man on the Hill, tongue thickened, impacts Earth Mother, about to birth brown-skinned people, tall *narra* swings our cradle, typhoons whistle lullabies, feed our eastern infant pearl
philters of *kapeng barako at lambanog*

Open casket, best *piña* cloth / pinch cheeks like flushed vulva / *bolo* at the ready, fingers encircle / *kain na po* / the smoke the rotting / wood /makes intoxicates me / *Pilipinas kong minumutya* / deceived / there is something burning / in the Oakland Hills / virgin ascends to heaven / body and soul / confession booth jerk-off / bride can only / wear white / *ibong Adarna* / bullet in her /prism-wand breast

dahon ng bayabas brings down fever /
do not sweep the floor, her soul has not yet departed

Phynne~Belle is a San Francisco Bay Area poet, writer, and one of the members of The Poetry Global Network, as well as the creator of Phynnecabulary Online Open Mic & programs. In 2021, she had her poetry included in two poetry anthologies, “Sinew: Ten Years of Poetry in the Brew,” and The Bronx Memoir Project Anthology Vol. V. Phynne has one poetry collection out titled, “Some Days, Here.” She is passionate about crafting events and programs that make the literary arts accessible widely. You can follow her on Instagram @phynne_belle and on Twitter @PhynneBelle. To connect with her in more ways, you can go to https://linktr.ee/PhynneBelle

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