Magnolia Licorice

By Morgan Love

After 18 years of growing up in Mississippi, the great Magnolia state, my appreciation and understanding of my home state have changed tremendously. I no longer live in the fairy tale world that I believed Mississippi to be, but I live in something beautifully broken, a home that desperately needs to be fixed. With the recent attention that Jackson has received due to the water crisis that left many Jacksonians without water for months, I wanted to tell a story that was inclusive of that. I wrote this poem with the intention of conveying the message of Mississippi being both beautifully broken yet something I still want and need to be a part of. To Mississippi, this is for you.

My tongue drips of tainted water, darkened by the hand of a man who can’t stand dark hands.

Crushed by feet that stomp on the poor, draining them of their lives

Beating beating beating pushing them away from the rest of us, my eyes cry salty tears for those who cannot taste your sweetness, for those who are stuck in their broken homes, waiting for a clear stream to wash away the crimson pool of unhappiness and frustration, death and decay

Why can’t we get a break? Why can’t we be loved enough?

Enough is all we have ever asked for enough to fill our bellies with its sweetness enough to slide our cheeks with its bitterness enough to rid us of that constant dark cloud that looms over every single one of us

My dear Magnolia state: I crave your long summer days and the thick smell of the sun resting in my nose And the trees that cool me when I get too hot

They whisper to me and speak wonders of what you offer: like so many of your suffering people beaten, battered, and broken they don’t know you as I do. Like Magnolia licorice you make my teeth hurt

- From the perspective of a black girl from Jackson, Mississippi

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The Annual Catholic Faithful Citizenship Day at the Louisiana State Capitol, organized by the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops (LCCB), will be held Wednesday, May 3, in Baton Rouge. Its goal is to educate and engage Catholics on Catholic Social Teaching and pending legislation important to LCCB, as well as for Catholic constituents to develop relationships with their legislators and each other. Click here to learn more about this important event and to sign up to participate. For questions, contact Susan Wolf at swolf@laccb.org.

The Loyola Maroon highlighted JSRI's second chance month webinar: "The Transnational Pipeline: Incarceration, Deportation, and Higher Education," an online panel featuring three experts dedicated to providing undocumented and incarcerated immigrants with opportunities in higher education. Read the full article here. Read the full article here.

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