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d'où je viens

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d'où je viens

McKenna Baker

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I am from the earth and moon,
mud, and sand, and rocks and all its flaws.
You can smell the rain in the ocotillo bushes.
 When you look at the moon you can still see my scars
 and if you listen closely enough he whispers,
 Its alright its ok its alright its ok and I believe him.

I am from the immigrants in the walnut groves
watching a man build a dream in orange blossoms.
They saw his castle rise and their dreams fall
when he says he's taking all the trees and his friend jokes,
 but none of the *vermin*. The word leaves a metallic
 taste in my mouth and I remember Coco Chanel,
 and T.S. Elliot., and Henry Ford, and red.

I am from a city of crowns,
our restaurant on 6th and Sherman
and our sorrows left in Canton, China
 Maybe po po's family was wrong,
 Maybe the sun really is coming.
 Gung-gung has a winter meal he
 did not kill for the very first time.

I am from smog and dust
if you squint hard enough you can see how
perfectly imperfect the city of angels really is.

My cousin holds my hand and she shows me
where her heart was broken by a woman
who couldn't see how beautiful she is

I am from the San Andreas,
split open and throbbing like her busted lip
gleaming with blood, sweat, and tears,
flooding with an epicenter of hate
et demain quand je vois le soleil encore.
Madame will tell me *tomorrow is a new day*