

## KAYUMANGGI RAINBOW

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Love, the brown color of the earth,  
Kayumanggi,  
Rich, deep and dark  
Center of the universe  
Before time began

Before brown boy was ripped away from  
Third World motherlands  
Islands lush, verdant green, too bountiful for words  
Shores deep with crystal clear turquoise blue,  
Rainbow coral reefs, of every shape and size,  
Filled with every fish of the sea and every color of the rainbow,  
Spectacular golden sunsets, without rival,  
Generations upon generations of ancestors buried in its ancient sacred soil

Brown boy born into lonely white America  
"I am one of you," he thinks  
"I too bleed and dream and cry"  
His mother bears the love  
of thousands on her shoulders  
Sacrificing her dreams for seeds of hope unborn

Across oceans and back again  
Brown boy straddled between this world and the one that haunts his dreams  
Not fully one without the other  
Not fully whole until together  
Not fully known until he remembers

Brown boy born into white America  
"Who am I?" He screams into the night  
No one hears him  
"Who are my people?" he cries  
No one else knows

Yet legacies of conquest  
still frame his every move  
They question the brown of his brownness  
They question the hue of his worth  
He feels the pain of his ancestors in his chest  
Trauma he still carries  
A legacy he still remembers

in the blood that flows through his veins

"I am human he cries!"

He breathes through the breath of his ancestors

"I am Lapu-Lapu, king of the island people"

"You will not take our ancient lands!"

"You will not destroy our ancient Gods!"

He says to the pale skinned foreigners burning with greed and lust,  
cross in one hand and sword in the other

"You will not destroy our verdant green

Islands, lush, too bountiful for words

Shores deep with crystal clear turquoise blue,

Rainbow coral reefs, of every shape and size,

Filled with every fish of the sea and every color of the rainbow,

Spectacular golden sunsets, without rival,

Generations upon generations of ancestors buried in its ancient sacred soil"

"You will not burn down our ancient bahay kubo nipa hut houses"

"You will not take our Gods and replace them with yours"

"You may kill our bodies but you will never kill our spirits"

"For you do not know our secret weapon"

"We were made for this moment"

"We planted seeds long, long ago"

"Love in the form of hope unborn"

"Love as eternal as the stars"

"Love that knows the revolution that burns in his chest"

500 years later

Brown boy is born into white America

"I am alive" he exclaims "I am right now"

"On the knife edge of time"

He takes his first breath from other people's sacred skies,

He takes his first drink from other people's sacred rivers and streams,

He takes his first steps from other people's land, soaked with red stained soil,

He forms his first words in a nation indifferent to its history of chains, genocide and war

Legacies of trauma unhealed, yet somehow love still remains unbroken, a miracle from time before  
time

Brown boy grows up

He fractures into a thousand rainbow shards of glass, too many broken pieces

His secret love hidden deep

Buried somewhere beneath white picket fences and his parents' dreams

Everyone else's dream

"Abomination and condemnation"  
 are the "holy words" he reads  
 From the pulpit he hears  
 "Love the sinner hate the sin"  
 "But my love is not a sin!" He shouts back  
 "Am I not human?" He cries

Brown boy screams at night but no one hears him  
 Too brown for rainbows  
 Too rainbow for brown  
 "Am I the only one?" He prays

"Do dreams come true?" he asks  
 "Will the oppression ever end?  
 When will the nightmare be over?"  
 Will justice one day reign in the morning light?  
 Will peace flood the valley and joy turn sorrow into day?"

In this time of rage and sorrow  
 Rebirth and revolution  
 Brown boy stands on the knife edge of time  
 Our bodies mark this very moment  
 With the ancestors whisper in our ear  
 Our lives with this one chance to make our move,  
 dance our dance, live into our ancestors wildest dream

Love, the only way  
 Love, as eternal as the stars, and the sun, and the moon, and the rain, and the earth  
 Love, holy and sacred and forming an unending circle  
 Love, pure and generous and kind  
 Love, justice here on earth, boundless and unbreakable

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