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I Am Me

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I Am Me

Abstract

You say my accent is interesting It shows I'm not you I don't understand your words even though I grew up knowing I am me and you are you I guess what I'm saying is well, what do you mean? When you say that my accent is interesting Are you trying to get to know me or assign me an identity? Is the *nopal que tengo en la frente* a symbol too ambiguous to fully convince you? When you're unsure, do my words comfort you? Because they are connected to the deserts and the cacti that are linked to the roots that you use to mark Who I am to you

[*excerpt*]

Keywords

accent, diversity, identity, language, Mexican American, poetry, race, social justice, Surge, Gettysburg College, Surge Gettysburg, Center for Public Service

Disciplines

Civic and Community Engagement | Latina/o Studies | Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies

Comments

Surge is a student blog at [Gettysburg College](https://www.gettysburg.edu/) where systemic issues of justice matter. Posts are originally published at surgegettysburg.wordpress.com. Through stories and reflection, these blog entries relate personal experiences to larger issues of equity, demonstrating that -isms are structural problems, not actions defined by individual prejudice. We intend to popularize justice, helping each other to recognize our biases and unlearn the untruths.

SURGE

[VERB] : to move suddenly or powerfully forward or upward

I AM ME

September 15, 2016



ricardocucamonga.com

You say my accent is interesting
It shows I'm not you
I don't understand your words even though I grew up knowing
I am me and you are you
I guess what I'm saying is well, what do you mean?
When you say that my accent is interesting
Are you trying to get to know me or assign me an identity?
Is the *nopal que tengo en la frente* a symbol too ambiguous to fully convince you?
When you're unsure, do my words comfort you?
Because they are connected to the deserts and the cacti that are linked to the roots that you use to mark
Who I am to you

Does every syllable drip with the pressure...
To be Mexican
To be American
To hide
To remain hidden
Do you hear the uncertainty?
In the lack of being either
But the honor of being both
Have you finished figuring me out?
Because I don't even know where I stand
The ground that you prop me up on is not as solid or smooth as you may think
It is made of sand
Slipping through your toes
Always being pulled and pushed to new adventures by playful waves
It is soft powdery dirt
Rising with each step
Creating clouds that constantly remind you to hold out your hand to guide others
The ground under my feet is not one but many

Because my ground, like others, is molded by more than an assigned identity
So do not plant me on your ground
Because my roots do not fully show that
I am me

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