

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Semilore Kilaso: Two Poems

Semilore Kilaso · Monday, June 15th, 2020

To Be a Breakfast Cereal

what does it even mean to be a person of colour?
 I hate the term “people of colour”
 They brand me like breakfast cereal
 To say I should be happy I have a colour/
 I should be cheerful like the rainbow
 but who has the colour of the rainbow except an alien
 I am alien to my own skin/
 I cannot trace my race with the colour of my face.
 black – not black enough to be “African American”
 White – not white enough to be a “person of no colour”.
 brown – not brown enough to be brown
 There an abundance of brown between black and white &
 I am a cup of coffee drown in a gallon of milk.

*

My Passport Says Otherwise

Today in school, a girl handed me a flier inviting me to join the African American Socio-Cultural Society. This is the sixth invitation I am receiving this semester. How do I explain that I am not African – I am not a citizen of any African country. My passport says I am American, so does my grandfather’s. My hair does not speak American English, it does not like water like my tongue. My caucasian neighbours says I am too fair to be a “person of colour” and my eyes should be chocolate and not the ocean – the ocean is for persons with skins lighter than beach sand. She reminds me that I am not American though my passport says otherwise. She reminds me I am a person of colour – a spectrum of many colours and I don’t fit here or there.

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