

puerto rican discovery number 39, freedom

*for dylcia pagan*

freedom is a treasure box that takes a whole life to explore  
it is a dress we wear of a hundred layers of fabric  
and a house of a thousand rooms  
freedom is a mothership on which we are willing passengers  
it is a tree with deep roots that draws strength from the water of ourstory  
freedom is a path you choose when you realize who you are  
understand where you came from and know where you are going  
freedom is a light that illumines the pages of the book that is your mind  
freedom teaches you to see the difference between truth and lies  
knowing when to say “no” to whomever is crushing your life force  
freedom is waking up early so you can get to school on time  
facing the challenges in the mirror of fear and making yourself strong  
pushing yourself forward despite the one hundred roadblocks  
freedom is a random act of kindness  
that lifts someone’s spirit and your soul at the same time  
freedom is the song you always want to hear  
a boat that sails the river currents reaching for the distant shore  
a story of extraordinary details handed down from the ancestors  
a table that serves good food to the universe all day long, everyday  
freedom is a clear pair of glasses that lets you see far  
a well of cool water that never runs dry and quenches your thirst  
a roadmap that keeps you from getting lost  
a guidebook that helps you find your place  
freedom is a marriage of emotion and logic that builds foundations  
a new birth from the womb of love in a celebration of life

freedom is a treasure box, a dress, a house,  
a mothership, a passenger, a tree, deep roots,  
a path, a light, a book, your mind, a teacher,  
saying “no,” waking up, facing challenges,  
strength, overcoming roadblocks, an act of kindness, a song,  
a boat, the river currents, reaching,  
a story, a table, a pair of glasses, a well,  
a roadmap, a guidebook, a marriage, a foundation,  
a birth, a womb, love, a celebration,  
the ink inside the pen of being writing the words on the page of this poem.

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