

Ancient Linguistics
By Ariel Luckey

ancient linguistics:
ritualistic resistance
my indigenous tongue
resurrects its existence
thru uncharted distance
I listen...

full moon light circle chants
singing praise to goddesses
pagan purple dance
with goat skin drum
I speak in tongues
bringing truth in trance
till church rants conspire
to kill
listen...
christian fire burning
to silence witches whispers

my indigenous tongue
hums hebrew tunes
thru desert dunes
dances circles under
silver sabbath moon
davens in mynians
intones faith intentions
till tyrants torture temples
tear the holy torah
into pogrom prayers
for jewish diaspora
desperate calls
within ghetto wailing walls

my imperialist tongue
sings country spanish to saints
and sighs wise superstition
till church inquisition
screams for their lord
with conquistador swords
listen...
christian slaughter
closes open mayan mouths
native tongues in prison

for catholics mission

my colonist tongue spits origin myths
english pilgrim trips
for rights religious
told thru taut lips
taught this glory
his story
vicious white militias
sounds
suspicious

my capitalist tongue twists
to pray with broken phrases
invoking changes for open racist
spoken on passage slave ships
her story shape shifts
village voices become strangled
dialects entangled in survival
tribal tradition missing
listen...

salt water drips
from my ocean blue eyes
watch whips paint
blood red black bodies
white bone ribs
flesh that fed the sea
my eyes close heavily
see
every ivory and ebony key
plays deep water blues
my story melody

I am the living legacy
the child of peasants and refugees
the son of the slave master
gone down to the crossroads
to pray for my lost soul
to ask for the gospel
a lyrical apostle
haunted by hymns hostile
and blessed by brave voices
who articulate artistry
narrate knowledge of the odyssey
speak honestly

I listen to language
study folkloric philosophy
to fulfill prophecy:
ancient linguistics

English Spanish Yiddish Dutch Gaelic Hebrew German Yoruban
my heart speaks human
my breath life and death
my tongue drums
(beat box)

language ancient
encoded human ecstasy and anguish
joy and pain which
translates a mans fate
a mystics mandate
to search for sacred sentences
forage for forgotten phrases
practice prayer peaces
to understand what astrology and ecology teaches
a theology thesis
following this heart artery to the deepest reaches
death is speechless
life is voice

every sacred syllable
carries symbols lyrical
spoken sound temples
to tap into
maps meant to
guide us on paths pious
towards our highest
a holy mirror
we reflect to re-connect

the power of prayer
poetry
prophecy:
ancient linguistics