

TRACE

An ally's aim is to lean into the collapse and see what stands.

One thing certain are themes of the past return to now and writing exercises can lead to new discoveries. Let the writing take care of itself. Step back and see what works with the least effort. No matter what we are faced with in and carry out in our daily lives, the creative process finds a way to shore up.

During your self-directed residency, keep the focus on what you find as your source.

Topic: Banned Books/Banned Thought/Banned Bodies and Histories is a violation of a people's history. Banning books is also a form of violence against the freedom to think; against the right to self-expression and impedes the cultural articulation of ideas as expressed in various forms and dimensions.

When groups in society imposes its agenda to limit the woke minds of various communities -- no matter what community, it is a violation of human rights and principles that inhibits the positive progression of advancing a society to reach its highest possible self. It further requires that thinkers consider others but also shared modalities for advancing human development.

Today many communities are again met with perilous times. In this light take out a piece of paper and attempt to write a poem, prose, essay or journal your next creative act. Take a new thought and try adding the experience you observed and notice the violent acts against the positive ones. Notice what equates to crimes against positive growth and advancement towards improved humanity. What has changed what hasn't changed? Seek another path with a different approach: Ask: how you will make the next creation stick. Consider the next book you will read, project you will explore and the nature of writing you will contribute that helps society. Then take note of what strategies works. Ask: What can you do to impact the extreme attitudes that limit your or another community's intellectual growth? Put the draft away then review at another time by noticing what will change in the revisited draft. For example: See the following:

“there's a zone and in that haptic space are the optics of time.”

This poem was written for the ancestors. The line is from an original draft that needed work. Over a course of a few days while in New Orleans, it took hours...but it finally came through. Ironically, the “breakthrough” was part of their title and theme! It was also another source of inspiration to write the piece. I did not know immediately that it was going to be a sort of homage to the ancestors but the ancestors weighed in and the work was done! I still look at it to consider edits it needs, but it stands on its own. The piece was read by a friend and who (unbeknownst to me read it a press conference). This newer version of an older prose poem is now a separate body of

work. The first work influenced the second but other elements came into play. Although this was not the writing process planned, it came with the difficulty in getting the rhythm of the piece to resonate with the first work. Aspects of the refrain remained but was shaved.

Listen to one central main line: "from the souls of shoes that have travelled on them for so long." The impetus to carry on the reverence...of weight and so on followed.

I reviewed what changed from the first draft to the next and after a few drafts the piece manifested. It is longer than the original poem.

Happy Writing and Creating!

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