

WHERE WE'RE FROM

A COLLABORATIVE POEM WRITTEN ON SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2018 BY THIRTY-FIVE DIFFERENT VISITORS TO THE FIRST ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL UNITY FAIR IN STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA

I am from dumplings, pizza, and popsicles
I am from the smell of the monsoon
I am from the sound of two creeks coming together
I am from the wild, wonderful glow of the full moon
I am from water ice and fresh garlic
I am from bell chimes at church and the sound of airplanes flying
I am from the smell of a rotting basement
I am from onions and cumin frying
I am from sugarcane juice and Kulfi
I am from corn fields and church picnics, my mother's sewing machine and my father's woodworking
I am from crickets and freshly cut hay
I am from rustling leaves and moth balls
I am from a Folger's coffee plant and Vietnamese stuffed po-boys
I am from the smell of fresh flowers and from the smell of cow dung
I am from sticky rice and jasmine
I am from popcorn, cracker jacks, and jello
I am from scored fjords and compressed glaciers
I am from licorice, toffee, and wind in the trees
I am from folding palm crosses and the smell of the wood stove
I am from cicadas and watermelon with seeds to spit
I am from mulch and lemon pie
I am from owls whistling as they fly, silage, and mashed potatoes
I am from ice cream and acres of grass
I am from pianos and moss
I am from the cane mill factory and a Japanese maple perfect for climbing
I am from quaking aspen and pine trees, from spiky desert mountains and green chile
I am from pickles and cereal
I am from prayers and wind howling
I am from goldfish and gummies, from beaches and lavender
I am from the cold north where fragile white crystals adorn the cruel silence
and shelter from the bitter wind feels precious and frail
I am from a wondrously strange place between worlds
I am from turnip greens, fried catfish, and mosquitoes buzzing
I am from the land of honeysuckle, exhaust, and waves

*THE WRITING OF THIS POEM WAS FACILITATED BY RIDGELINES LANGUAGE ARTS / RIDGELINESLANGUAGEARTS.ORG
THE MULTICULTURAL UNITY FAIR IS ORGANIZED BY THE COMMUNITY DIVERSITY GROUP AND THE STATE COLLEGE BOROUGH*

