

You Shall Sing

we walk
dirt path
between tall trees

wind whips
branches sway
leaves twirl
fall upon us

trees speak through wind
wind speaks through trees

we stop to listen
all becomes quiet

the others walk on but I stop
a deer is watching me
I turn around
she looks into my eyes

she knows me
she has been waiting for me

mantle rock
mandy falls

their stories silenced
their names lost

I search for my ancestors around each tree
their faces in the stones
their reflections in the waters

I listen to every rustling in dry leaves
hoping they are walking here with me
on this land where they died
the land where I was born

for generations we look
into deep brown eyes and
see our own eyes

my heart aches
she holds my hand

trail of tears
still walking

that is what the spirit tells me
you shall sing for all the people

~ sarah elizabeth burkey