

“Time in the Mirror”
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After I rose from slumber
This morning I spent some time in the mirror
Naked

Before I dressed for the day
Before I even brushed my teeth
And I looked

I stood

Nude
Like the pearls of an exposed collarbone

I watched

Took in every crack and crevice
More numerous than the curves
Of the River Nile
More triumphant than Lake Victoria

I noticed

Peaks and valleys
Like the Ethiopian Highlands

I realized

I have an African woman’s shape

The bosom of my ancestors
The hips of my foremothers
The calves of my forefathers
The lips of my distant cousins
The smile of my tribe
The laugh of my kin

This is the skin that God placed me in

Because I am
We are
Created in the image and likeness of God

This must be what God looks like

What God looks like

What God

Tastes

Like

I am more than your dismissive glances

I am more than your judgmental stares

I am

Created

Fearfully, wonderfully

By a God who rejoices over me with singing

And this ain't no karaoke, y'all

This is an eternal love song

Written in the beginning

Composed just the same

A song titled with my own name

This is what it feels like

To love and to be

Totally

Freely

Chocolatey

Me.