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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN

what it means to be human
more than to be alive
more than to have a voice
more than to speak language
they say our language makes us human
but how can it be?
only certain language we see?
who's got the power to get that degree?
by forcing languages into a tree...

the academic system is one of a kind
you have brand new ideas that exercise the mind

or you follow an agenda like someone who is blind
and the system makes you grind your mind
and grind and grind

and maybe they see you smile and write that essay
but have you heard what they say?

academia is human-made
but is it human?
when I was a kid I imagined
that being a scientist
is about having
a brilliant mind
ideas
and passion
to find out and learn
to see and understand
to try and fail and try again and succeed
Ludwig van Drake and all the professors
in all those cartoons
never applied for jobs, scholarships and research grants

it is language that counts but that's not the whole part
words make relationships that can bring you the reward
words made the system and all of us took part
everybody has a chance to show that they are smart

but wait...
whose epistemes, whose power
is printed in those books
speaking from those libraries
and the different people
all over the earth
who become readers
what are they doing
to the fixed languages in texts
when they respond
with feelings in their body

what it means to be human
is to feel the pain AND to cause the pain
Michael Taussig said:
“The victim and the victimizer are part of the same humanity”
and just like cultures of terror
cultures of knowledge cause wounds
and Rumi said:
“The wound is the place where the light enters you”
and out of the pain
something new can arise
like the phoenix from the dust
and the wind blows it all away
all the words, sounds and noises
to unknown places
to be human means to listen