

## **“Call Me Human” (2015)**

from birth we etch these lines  
engrave them inside your mind  
by the rockets red glare  
the bombs bursting in the air  
the war it begins  
to make the imaginary country  
as real as your skin.

America doesn't exist  
it's an idea men have obsessed over since 1776.

an excuse we use to manifest a reality that  
destroyed the destiny of Native civilization.

they always told me I was an American  
and so I said to them,  
“can you show me America?”  
can you tell me where it is?  
I've been looking for it all my life!  
looking for the reason why my people had to die.  
but the only place I can find America is inside of your mind.

they said, no don't worry... just  
stand up  
put your hand right there on your heart  
now turn just a little bit towards the flag.  
there it is. Right there. Don't you see it?  
there you go.  
okay ready?  
Go

I pledge allegiance to an illusion  
called the United States of America  
and to the non-existent boundaries  
for which it stands  
one deception  
under a Christian god  
with which we legitimize the genocide  
of its indigenous peoples

America doesn't exist  
but it is a psychological sickness we catch with years  
of exposure to our public schools to baseball games

and once we believe that America is real we believe that we have a  
reason to steal a reason to kill.

the Long Walk 1965  
9,000 Navajo are marched with barrels at their backs  
herded like sheep for over 400 miles  
to their own special concentration camp.  
in the name of America

Wounded Knee Massacre 1890  
U.S. Cavalry descend on a Lakota camp  
with 530 women and children  
and with "America" in their minds  
and red and white stripes blinding their sight  
they sunk bullets into the chests of children  
that could have been their own  
in the name of America

look on the twenty dollar bill my friends, see the man who  
marched 15,000 Cherokee--  
pregnant women, their children, the elderly--  
marched from Georgia to Oklahoma  
in the name of America.

do we remember what has been done in the name of an abstract nation  
or has it all been buried along with our hearts and our tongues.

and I should not hate fireworks on warm summer nights  
and I should not hate a combination of colors  
and I should not hate dead men on paper money  
and I should not hate.

so let me tell you that I love you  
dear soldiers  
dear president of the imaginary states of America

dear school teachers  
dear man behind the curtain  
let me tell you that I love you  
and that I am leaving it in the past  
let me tell you that I too am in love with my motherland  
but know that this Earth is the foremother of your forefathers  
she existed before Hancock and before Nixon  
before money before America  
and that she will exist long after America is forgotten.

raising hands to our hearts for a fairytale  
that America is anything more than a word  
we've drawn so many maps, we've put so many flags in the ground  
we've labeled all the land  
we've drawn imaginary lines all around the sand  
but people hear me and separate your fact from fabrication  
this is the projection of our imagination onto  
the holy earth.

and today we unite to remember what is real  
to remember that humanity is real  
a beating heart is real  
the earth beneath us is real  
but America is a thought that  
has turned us against ourselves  
history into myth  
entire cultures into forgotten languages  
and the free mind into a society, deceived  
so please do not call me an American  
please do not even call me a Native American  
please, I beg you, call me human

and do not call this land America  
if you listen hard she will tell you her true name  
as the nighthawks dive at twilight  
as the wolves howl at midnight  
as the waterfalls rage cascading  
when the avalanches fracture breaking  
she WILL tell us her true name with earthquakes  
that split states and break fences to

remind us she does  
not belong to us.  
but that we belong to her.