

WHAT IF THE LIGHT FROM  
THE SUN DOESN'T TOUCH  
MY SKIN IN THE RIGHT  
LIGHT

WILL MY MEMORY  
REGISTER THE CONTRAST  
BETWEEN MY SHADOW &  
THE BRIGHTEST PART OF  
MY SKIN WITHOUT  
WASHING OUT ALL THE  
MARKS OF MY ANCESTORS

forget american art  
forget the small pox blankets  
forget the word for the white man  
forget columbus and every white president  
forget their faces their gender their preface  
their fall from grace  
their busted down broken hearts and burning homes  
forget the american flag  
forget the artifacts and alternative facts  
forget their science and evolution  
forget their history  
forget their mythologies and astrological inquiries  
their gods and goddesses and co-opted religions  
forget their sexual empowerment  
forget their inability to resist until centuries later  
until enough brown bodies have died  
until enough brown bodies have ignited the flame  
and shone them the way  
until our resistance to their bullshit is enough  
of a reminder for them consider that we all  
have a right to survive  
forget their limits and borders and insecurities  
and intergenerational psychosis  
forget the way they kiss or cry or feel victorious  
forget their monuments and one-sided civil liberties  
forget their freedom and patriotism and traditions  
forget their faces searching yours for any acceptance  
or validation

but do not forget their language  
hold that against them like a non-complicit bible  
or a knife or a gun  
and then forget the gun and the knife and the bible