MARILYN PATRICIA YEARWOOD

Spaces of my Empowerment

I am... a woman a mother an educator a storyteller a poetry writer a granddaughter of a village woman healer, who was a mid-wife leader a daughter of a Black Caribbean woman, who was the village philosopher and advisor a daughter of othermothers, like women spiritual leaders, godmothers, neighbours and Indigenous women leaders they say I can’t be from here for my accent is nowhere there I’m asked where are you really from? can’t I be Canadian? why, Black-African-Caribbean-Trinidadian-Canadian Never just a Canadian!

I am... a lover a twin a student an antiracist activist a Black feminist who prefers to be a womanist a simple mother with a daughter, who wants to know about her great grand mother the midwife healer a storyteller for her Yoruba Orisha great grandfather, who was an African bamboo dancer a dread, not long, not blonde, not brunet, but a locks head with friends from Jamaica, Sudan, Nigeria and Somalia please leave me alone whenever I go home for I am always at home when I roam with my ancestors on our throne the village woman healer and the Orisha leader together with my Black Caribbean father, the philosopher and adviser where I am a daughter, a woman, a mother and a researcher.

Marilyn Patricia Yearwood is a PhD candidate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. She is from Trinidad and Tobago, and lives in Canada.