

Chimeric Whiteness, Or Nightmares Passing as Normal

FIRST/

Just doing the work.

Not telling other people how they need to do their work.

Not buying into the delusion of a topological humanity.

Not climbing where there is no mountain.

Not trying to clean it up when I fail.

Taking a long hard look at failure.

Owning my failures.

Not crying when I'm confronted, no, made aware of my mistakes.

Not assuming every encounter is a confrontation.

Not denying the heat of my fears and their scorched-earth tactics.

Not inserting myself as a solution to the problem that is me.

Not needing to know all your business, all the time.

Not acting like I'm being left out of some club no one opted into.

Not parading in your underwear, your scars, or your histories.

Understanding the color and language of my dreams without recasting the color and language of yours.

Respecting the shape of your world, beyond my grasp or understanding.

Acknowledging.

Summoning patience, and acknowledging :

the work that began and continues without me .

my lack of tools for these tasks.

the communities, institutions, and persons working, but still failing sometimes.

the allure of saviors.

the threat of good intentions.

the violence.

And the fatigue.

Naming this chimeric whiteness of :

entitlement, access, deniability, anger, contempt, family, usury, proximity, dictation, negation, uninvited presence, injustice, justification, smiles, self-loathing, self-soothing, self-sacrificing for self-aggrandizing, grand standing, mutilation, objectification, criminalization, and outright theft of non - "white" dreams, peace, knowledge, bodies, spaces, methods, and labors.

Unseating this chimeric whiteness.

And then.

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