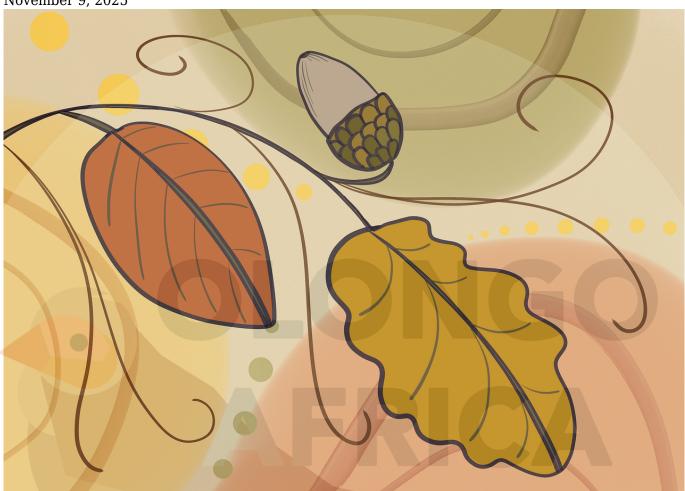
child of my mother

Salawu Olajide November 9, 2025



after Nikki Giovanni's "resignation" (for you, you, & you)

i love you because our mothers say nothing is more worse than eating alone so we eat iyán & ègúsí from the same bowl brotherman you who would wrestle a blue whale for my sake i love you because of all the steep mountains & the hills we've climbed to the top & still climbing i love you for all your dry jokes & dark humours how after P's dad burial we sit in a room & make jokes so dry in our throats we coughed up laughters despite the grief despite the world & it's burdens

despite the country that doesn't give a damn about it's citizens dying i love you way before i thought of writing this verse blood of my blood because you create space hold space & share with me the magic of your smile i love you for we feed on each others energies for replenishment on days when our insides are hollow days we walk days we run days we grow wings & fly i love you & your Yorùbá-British tongue night after poetry-after-dark how for a moment we were so still the space between us saturated with sweetness i love you so much i could build a shrine in your name build a village with an amphi -theatre where the world would go to learn the art of kindness i love you child of my mother (èjè! whose mother is also my mother) because we don't live only by the blood running in our veins we live by the rhyme & rhythm of our wor(l)ds i love you no be today e start my guy we must have been friends pre-birth soulmates in the sea of souls before we were gifted these bodies i love you because the blood of our covenant is thicker than the water of any womb

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