

JAVIER PEREZ

Petrichor

I followed La Llorona's trail of tears to Quetzaltenango
where G_____, who was deported, tells me she misses her son
the way my mother must have missed my sisters the first time she left for the U.S.
the way Xquic left Xibalba in exile after meeting the calavera colgado de un arbol
the way Salvadoran trees hung the dead from their branches & birthed a
diasporic descendance, the
way with the help of Ix'toq, goddess of rain, Xquic gave birth far from her home
the way G_____ 's tears allowed her seed to grow
the way all us children of migrant mothers smell like petrichor
the way Xquic's twins were also rain alchemized & thus named after magic

that is the way for us descendants of La Llorona to exist:

magically,
like the gritos
we are.

Javier Perez is a Salvadoran-American poet, teaching artist, and MA student at the University of Cape Town. He is Lingua Franca Spoken Word Movement's Project Manager and co-founder of Cape Youth Poetry Hub for Expression & Rhythm (CYPHER). Javier appears in *Acentos Review*, *Up the Staircase*, *Apricity Press*, and more.