

**to all that is Juneteenth**

*flag raising ceremony with Mayor Brandon Johnson,  
Coco Elysses & city rooting for a brother  
@ the Daley Plaza*

*on Friday, June 16, 2023*

maybe along with this flag  
in this plaza

or them firecrackers  
popping in Humboldt

& all of them freedom festivals  
out west  
over east  
up north  
& out south

maybe

along with all of this

we should remember to rest

for what is an emancipation  
without a backyard to just sit in  
& gaze at what's supposed to be 40 acres  
& a mule

have your soul look back  
& wonder how you got over  
when everything the elevator built

was designed to break you down

maybe along with this flag raised  
in this plaza

& these dignitaries  
in their distinguish-ment

& the people  
parading amongst this poetry & pulse

maybe

along with all of this

we should rest      so that we can rise

for what is a celebration  
of an emancipation  
without a resurrection  
of a just direction

policies that feel more like protection  
than infection

who am i /    outside of a laureate  
happy that an election  
did a good thing

big mama used to sing  
*i dont beleeve /*  
*him brought me dis far*  
*to leave me /*

*so glad him a man /  
sittin above de clouds & stars /  
who wud never deceive me*

& maybe along with this red  
black & green being raised  
to wave amongst these skyscrapers & every-thing

maybe

amongst all of this

we should remember to nourish our bodies  
so that we can move as practitioners of our passions  
& not pawns pandering for paychecks

we should remember to nourish our minds  
so that we may move in dignity  
& not defeat

we should remember to nourish our hearts  
so that we may move in love-beat  
& not just algorithms

maybe along with this flag raised  
we should remember to move    in pride  
   with pride  
   for pride

maybe along with this flag being raised  
we should pause & ask for healing

healing of neighborhoods  
healing of children  
healing of weary minds  
healing of feeble bodies  
healing of broken spirits

maybe we should ask for a wind  
to move us forward  
& up

maybe this commemoration of an emancipation  
should heal us free

not by words  
but by deeds

maybe this day

... maybe