

Butterflies

by Preeti Yadav

Life without a soul,
inert inhabitation in this savage world
faded, obscure existence as if incidental,
dwindled to a list of dos and don'ts
indispensable to our survival.

But hope remains,
Open your eyes!
Even if it makes you cry.
Hope holding on to hope,
waiting patiently for you and me,
wishing we will one day wake up
and try to be truly happy,
choose ourselves over our commitment to conformity.

Hope is betting on us
against all odds,
hoping we have the wisdom
to recognize the divine in us,
appreciate the beautiful colors we are made of.
Follow the fragrance in our hearts
and finally do that which makes us transpire
with glee, jump up higher and higher

Not standstill, let our minds run free
where our wishes mature and our dreams grow tall
through expansive fields,
uninhibited and at ease.
Endure the wild fires
stirred by the enemies of our dreams
until the flowers of persistence blossom
until the offspring of our incubated visions
cocoon of hope burst open,
turning into beautiful butterflies

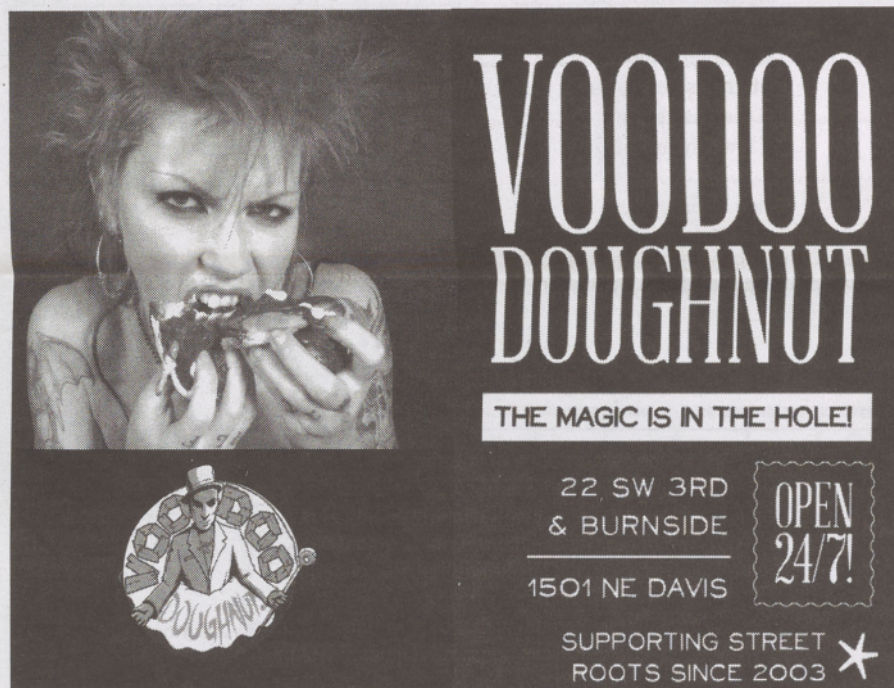
Then we may cease to merely endure
life of mundane, uninspiring chores
held by a thin string, hanging by a cord
Unceremoniously pulled out of our lives,
we may salvage our souls
There is still hope
I think.

Still Remains

by Maddy Brown-Clark

The birds singing told me
What to dream
Even the rumbling of the Earth
As it quaked
Was music to my ears
The wind rustling leaves
Told of changes to come
The roaring of the sea
Told how the Moon
Controlled the tides
The crackling sound of Earth's
Fire
Told how we all are changed
For life is a fire.
Sometimes it molds us.
Sometimes it destroys us.
But the fire still remains

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