

Augustana College

## Augustana Digital Commons

---

Eddie Mabry Diversity Award

Prizewinners

---

Spring 2-26-2020

### Ode to The Black Body

Imani Muhammad

*Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/mabryaward>

---

#### Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Muhammad, Imani. "Ode to The Black Body" (2020). *Eddie Mabry Diversity Award*.

<https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/mabryaward/14>

This Creative Writing is brought to you for free and open access by the Prizewinners at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Eddie Mabry Diversity Award by an authorized administrator of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@augustana.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@augustana.edu).

## **Ode to The Black Body**

By: Imani Muhammad

I love brown skin,  
And the shine on our shoulders,  
I love our braids,  
And the shape of our hair when it's an afro,  
I love shea butter,  
And aloe vera plant,  
Moisturizing my skin and healing my cuts without chemicals,

We are gold, yellows, oranges, and greens,  
We are warm undertones,  
We are curls and locks,  
With deep eyes,  
And hands that tell stories,  
Hips so wide,  
We're fine wine,  
And you know it,

I love our rap and blues,  
Soul and R&B too,  
I love that we are god's first people,  
I love how we can take a soul and shove it right back into you,  
With our voices,  
Our writing,  
Our sound,

I love the south,  
And I love the city too,  
Urbanized, monopolized straight outta Jim Crow,  
With our leaders and spiritual teachers,  
Fighting for our rights all over the world,

I love how we are the face of the globe,  
I love how everyone has seen brown skin and called it Indian,  
I love how everyone has seen brown skin and called it indegious,  
I love how everyone has seen brown skin and called it African,

I love how everyone has seen brown skin and called it African-American,  
I love how everyone has seen our bodies,  
And witnessed how society likes to use our bodies for harm or to encourage controversy,

I love our artistry,  
I love our 'we can do it to' philosophy,  
I love our dark and light brown bodies alike,  
I love our variety,  
I love knowing where we came from and who we are becoming,

So,  
I long for the day we get our thrones and crowns back,  
And our royalty class by the Nile of Egypt,  
I long for days we own land,  
And more positions of power,  
I long for the day the world admits **black is power**,  
As we are the heartbeat of the mainstream industry and pop culture,  
I long for the day they stop the mass genocide,  
And understand our **blackness is here to stay**,  
As we are the roots,  
That came from the ground and will never go away,  
As we are who say we are black and we are proud,