

A PLACE OF BELONGING

Sometimes I am Detroit
Full of potential, promise, and charm
And she is Michigan
Everything that I am is contained within her
But, it's not an issue, I know the debt I owe
I imagine the beginning
Before there were garbage cans and projects, blocks and police
When all of me was pure and unadulterated
And I wonder if I knew then that a change was coming
Surely she knew I could never remain the same, and she loved me still
Surely she knew that I would try my own way, she held me in her bosom
When I may have considered myself larger than I really was
She was there to make sure I knew I was part of something bigger
I lay on the edge of the river that connects the great lakes
She is unique, an inland sea that swallows freighters
In the same way, I am swallowed by her
A lesser city may feel pressured, being eaten alive
I, absent my ego, am a city
And she...she is my state
I couldn't be who I am without a state to reside in
She could not be a state without a city such as me
Apart, we are separate entities
Together...we are the GREAT STATE of MICHIGAN
WE are a great state, and there is no other state in which to be
I am concrete and glass, asphalt and grass
She is all of that and hills, and mountains, and snow, and rain
She is farmland and livestock, marine and mammal
She is my state of being and, my state, it is a happy one
An ecstatic one, she is the only state for me
She is the only place for me
City, County, State
She is me
I am her
We are US