

# STATE OF THE UTERUS





# A THEOLOGY OF BEAUTY



**In pursuit of a theology that served me well, I found myself in my mother's garden wondering how to be of useful in a genuinely confusing world.**

**CONJURING BEAUTY IS, FOR FOLKS WITHOUT MONEY, AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECLAIM SOME OF THE DIGNITY TAKEN FROM US BY ENVIRONMENTS THAT ARE NOT CLEAN OR WELL MAINTAINED.**

**I BELIEVE IN THE VALUE OF BEAUTY AS A BASIC NEED AND RIGHT AND I LEARNED THAT FROM MY MAMA.**

**THE WORD AESTHETIC, IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM, ACTUALLY MEANS TO MAKE AWARE. WHO GETS TO TAKE UP SPACE? DO YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE YOUR WORLD? EVEN IF IT'S JUST A BOOKSHELF MADE WITH BRICKS, BRICKS PAINTED GOLD, OR FAKE PLANTS THAT DON'T NEED FANCY MULCH IN POTS THAT YOU PAINTED YOURSELF. MY MAMA TAUGHT ME THAT BOOKSHELVES PAINTED GLITTERING, MILKY WHITE OR PASTEL PINK WERE PORTALS TO OTHER WORLDS, AND CHRISTMAS DECOR BOUGHT ON DECEMBER 26TH- FOR USE NEXT YEAR- WAS REALLY PROOF OF A COMMITMENT TO BEAUTY THAT WAS SO STRONG THE WAIT WAS WORTH IT. SHE UNDERSTOOD HOW POWERFUL BEAUTY WOULD BE AND MADE SURE TO TEACH HER DAUGHTERS HOW TO DREAM.**

**SEEING OUR WORLD AS BEAUTIFUL CHANGES HOW WE INTERACT WITH IT. BUILDING A WORLD AROUND OURSELVES THAT FEELS LIKE A LOVING MIRROR LEADS TO NEIGHBORS PILING INTO A USED CAR TO VOTE TOGETHER. FEEDING EACH OTHER IN BETWEEN PAY PERIODS. GATHERING TO LEARN TOGETHER. THE DREAMS MY MAMA GAVE ME AS A LITTLE GIRL ARE THE FOUNDATION OF A LIFELONG PURSUIT SUBLIMATED, NOW, INTO A DESIRE TO MAKE THE WORLD AROUND ME MORE BEAUTIFUL.**

**COLLECTIVE ACTION IS HOW WE DO THAT THIS IS A GUIDE FOR BABES THAT WANT TO CHANGE THEIR WORLD.**

# GET INFORMED

2020 IS AN ELECTION YEAR, BUT THE REAL WORK OF CHANGING OUR WORLD WILL BE HAPPENING LONG AFTER A NEW FIGUREHEAD IS DECIDED UPON.



## REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

"THE HUMAN RIGHT TO MAINTAIN PERSONAL BODILY AUTONOMY, HAVE CHILDREN, NOT HAVE CHILDREN, AND PARENT THE CHILDREN WE HAVE IN SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES,"

-SISTERSONG

RJ ISSUES TO BE  
MINDFUL OF

SEX ED  
ABORTION ACCESS  
HEALTH CARE  
ECONOMIC JUSTICE



# Y E A H , B U T W H Y ?

IN THE INTRICATELY WOVEN TAPESTRY THAT IS MODERN LIFE, THE FLAPPING OF A BUTTERFLY'S WINGS IN TONGA COULD PRODUCE A STOCK MARKET CRASH- EVERYTHING MATTERS.

## SEX ED

Sex Ed helps young people avoid negative health consequences by teaching them to communicate about sexuality and sexual health, delay sex until they are ready, understand healthy and unhealthy relationships, understand, value, and feel autonomy over their bodies while respecting others' right to bodily autonomy and emphasizing the importance of dignity and respect for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.



## ABORTION ACCESS

With the decision to end a pregnancy so hotly debated, there is a need for a different conversation about the topic itself.

Abortions are medical procedures that take about 10 minutes to complete, once you've jumped through the hoops Texas puts in your way. The hoops, and why they exist, are why we have to chat. In Texas the restrictions on abortion make them more difficult to access.

## HEALTH CARE

Black Women experience pervasive disparities in healthcare access- For me Healthcare is a Major Issue. Not just because Maternal Mortality, while caused by racism, is exacerbated by spotty health care access over the life of a birthing person. I also care because access to a dentist can mean the difference between a livable wage or poverty. If health is wealth, those of us living in poverty or near the poverty line are in debt we cannot even conceive of yet.

## CAPITALISM

Economic justice is a component of social justice. It is a set of moral principles for building economic institutions, the ultimate goal of which is to create an opportunity for each person to create a sufficient material foundation upon which to have a dignified, productive, and creative life. Under a capitalist system it is incredibly difficult for the working class to achieve this, so we must fight for the dismantling of capitalism in pursuit of a world that works for us all.



**SPECIFICALLY...**

**WE NEED TO TALK  
ABOUT ABORTIONS**



ABORTION STIGMA STEMS FROM  
THE PERCEPTION THAT SOCIETY  
GENERALLY DISAPPROVES OF  
ABORTION.

BUT STUDIES SHOW THAT MOST OF  
THE POPULATION BELIEVE  
ABORTION SHOULD AT THE VERY  
LEAST BE LEGAL IN CIRCUMSTANCES  
LIKE RAPE OR INCEST.

**AND ANYWAY, BODILY  
AUTONOMY IS FAR MORE  
IMPORTANT THAN THE OPINION  
OF ANY ABSTRACT SURVEY  
TAKER- WE ALL DESERVE THAT.**

THE LACK OF DISCUSSION LEADS TO  
RULES AND RESTRICTIONS  
THAT MAKE PEOPLES LIVES WORSE,  
NOT BETTER.



## **SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- **ADVOCATING FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF ABORTION.**
- **PROTESTING RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE OVER HEALTHCARE. INSISTING UPON EVIDENCE BASED EDUCATION IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS.**
- **DEMANDING THAT HEALTHCARE ORGS ADDRESS ABORTION AS A COMMUNITY NEED.**
- **DISCUSSING ABORTION CARE WITH YOUR REGULAR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.**

# GET PISSED!

SO MANY OF THE ISSUES THAT  
PLAGUE US ARE THE RESULT OF  
ISM'S AND PHOBIA'S- RACISM,  
SEXISM, QUEERPHOBIA,  
TRANSPHOBIA AND APOROPHOBIA.

WHEN YOU SEE YOUR FRIENDS  
DEALING WITH RACISTS YOU  
SHOULD BE FUCKING MAD. WHEN  
YOU SEE A STRANGER DEALING  
WITH TRANSPHOBIA, YOU SHOULD  
BE FUCKING MAD.



EVERYONE YOU MEET IS A SENTIENT  
BEING, WITH TRAUMAS AND  
EXPERIENCES COMPLETELY  
SEPARATE FROM YOURS,  
DESERVING OF EMPATHY AND  
RESPECT JUST LIKE YOU, KEEP THAT  
IN MIND WHEN YOU GO TO THE  
VOTING BOOTH.





# HOW TO TAKE THIS INTO THE REAL WORLD

- LEARN HOW TO SPOT INJUSTICES THAT ARE IN YOUR BLINDSPOTS ( AROUND ISSUES YOU ARE NOT DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY) AND FIGHT FOR PEOPLE WHO LOOK AND LIVE COMPLETELY DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU DO.
- IDENTIFY PLACES OF PRIVILEGE, AND FIND WAYS TO USE THAT PRIVILEGE TO BENEFIT FOLKS WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THAT PRIVILEGE.
- UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE, HOWEVER YOU CAN, AND WE ARE THE REVOLUTIONARIES WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR.



# GET ACTIVE!

WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHIFT THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF OUR NEIGHBORS AND THE WORLD.

THE WORK IS HAPPENING! THAT BIG WORK OF ACTUALIZING A WORLD WHERE FOLKS ARE FED, CLOTHED, HOUSED, AND LOOKING BEYOND OPPRESSION ISN'T JUST A DREAM, PEOPLE ARE LOSING SLEEP OVER IT RIGHT NOW.

AUSTIN IS WHERE CITY FOLKS COME TO FINISH SCHOOL, LIVE FREE FROM THE OPPRESSION OF THEIR HOMETOWNS OR BECOMING A TECH-BRO. THE TWIN REALITIES OF SHIRKING THE PLANS YOUR PARENTS MAY HAVE HAD AND ALSO BEING AN UNRESTRAINED CAPITALIST ARE PART OF THE REALITY WE HAVE TO CONTEND WITH AS AUSTINITES...IT'S CONFUSING AND EXHILARATING SIMULTANEOUSLY.



ORGANIZATIONS ALL AROUND YOU ARE FACING THAT REALITY WITH THEIR EYES OPEN AND THEIR FISTS CLENCHED. BUT THEY NEED YOU! FIND A SPACE WHERE YOU CAN BE USEFUL.

ARE YOU PISSED ABOUT THE HOUSELESSNESS THAT COMES WITH INTENSE EXPANSION AND GENTRIFICATION? THAT'S GOOD! FIND AN ORG THAT DISTRIBUTES SUPPLIES TO FOLKS WHO CAN'T AFFORD THEM. DONATE TAMPONS AND PADS TO AN ORG THAT HELPS MENSTRUATING FOLKS SURVIVE THEIR MONTHLY PERIODS. DOES REPRODUCTIVE OPPRESSION BOTHER YOU? AWESOME! THERE ARE ABORTION FUNDS THAT NEED YOUR MONEY TO HELP FACILITATE ACCESS TO ABORTIONS IN A STATE THAT IS HELL-BENT ON DENYING US REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM. YOU CAN EVEN VOLUNTEER TO ESCORT BABES WHO NEED MORAL SUPPORT TO THE CLINIC.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS BUT DO SOMETHING.



# LOCAL ABORTION FUNDS

to volunteer with, or donate to

THE LILITH FUND FOR REPRODUCTIVE EQUITY  
[HTTP://WWW.LILITHFUND.ORG/](http://www.lilithfund.org/)

JANE'S DUE PROCESS  
[HTTP://JANESDUEPROCESS.ORG/](http://janedueprocess.org/)

TEXAS EQUAL ACCESS FUND  
[HTTP://WWW.TEAFUND.ORG/](http://www.teafund.org/)

WEST FUND  
[HTTP://WWW.WESTFUND.ORG/](http://www.westfund.org/)

FRONTERA FUND  
[HTTP://LAFRONTERAFUND.ORG/](http://lafronterafund.org/)

THE AFIYA CENTER  
[HTTP://THEAFIYACENTER.ORG/](http://theafiyacenter.org/)





# LOCAL ADVOCACY ORGS

to volunteer with, or donate to

DEED'S NOT WORDS  
[HTTP://DEEDSNOTWORDS.COM/](http://deedsnotwords.com/)

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TEXAS VOTES  
[HTTP://WWW.PLANNEDPARENTHOODACTION.ORG/  
PLANNED-PARENTHOOD-TEXAS-VOTES/ELECTIONS](http://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/planned-parenthood-texas-votes/elections)

COMMUNITY FAMILY CENTERS  
[HTTP://WWW.COMMUNITYFAMILYCENTERS.ORG](http://www.communityfamilycenters.org)

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP  
[HTTP://WWW.NURSEFAMILYPARTNERSHIP.ORG](http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org)

BLACK MAMA'S MATTER  
[HTTP://BLACKMAMASMATTER.ORG/](http://blackmamasmatter.org/)

PEOPLES COMMUNITY CLINIC  
[HTTP://WWW.AUSTINPCC.ORG](http://www.austinpcc.org)

EMILY'S PLACE  
[HTTP://WWW.EMILYSPLACETX.ORG](http://www.emilysplacetx.org)

PROJECT ACCESS AUSTIN  
[HTTP://WWW.PROJECTACCESSAUSTIN.ORG](http://www.projectaccessaustin.org)

