

the One Who I Am

I was given a name to personalize my ancestors
I was colonized to build foreigners' wealth
I was taught science, Western science, to think as a Westerner
I am given back my freedom with the physical expulsion of the colonizers
I am told that I am the One who now determines events in my life

I am the One who has seen the dreams coming true
Is it true that colonizers who have been there for 500 years have vanished?
Is it true that my people and I won't fear any more the White skin?
Is it true that we won't have any more secret teaching?
Is it true that our traditions will flourish freely?

To what extent was I moulded by my parents, family, ethnic group, and society?
To what extent have I made myself?
I wouldn't like to betray my parents, family, ethnic group, and society
I wouldn't like to betray my conquered values
Who am I?



Figure 7.5. I have discovered myself through this research.

I am looking for myself within the city in which I live
I am looking for myself within the rural areas where my roots are
I am looking for myself within Western culture
I am looking for myself within my ethnic and African culture
I am looking but the images do not match who I think I am

I am thinking that all of these are constraints on my freedom
I would like to be a World citizen
I would like to be a freedom thinker
I would like to not be constrained by my tradition, colonizers, or Western science
I would like to be what I am

I fought for my freedom

...w its oppression of me
...ons to show their oppression of me
I am struggling to be enculturated in my own local-indigenous science
I am wondering if I will succeed in getting rid of Western science, local-indigenous
costumes and traditions, and colonialism.
I would like to be what I am

My fight has evolved
I am also identified by colonialism, indigeneity, and Western science
I was never identified by mountains, panoramas, and emotions
I have languages and traditions that were never given value to be taught in school
I have evolved to have an integrated science in my classroom
I would like to teach who I am

How can I teach you without knowing who you think you are?
How can we create a better world without sharing the meaning of "better"?
How can we describe to each of us who we think we are?
How can we accept discovering that we are wrong?
I think we are just Awareness/Emptiness
What do you think?

A. Cupane
Nov. 2006