

Mama Ocean Blue: A Poem and Interview, Mama Linda's Chapbook
The Peale, Baltimore
Recorded in July 2020

Mama Linda Gus (00:00):

Peace and blessings everyone. My name is Mama Linda Gus, and I am the bell ringer, I am the praise singer, and I invite you to listen, to learn, and to share. [foreign language 00:00:00:17] Gather round my people. Well, well, gather around my people, well, well. Gather around my people. Well, well, well, well, well.

Mama Linda Gus (00:36):

"Mama Ocean Blues 100 days are fast approaching no in his sight. Mama Ocean, please with us, humans, please save my children. Please save my wells, save my reefs, save my sea turtles, save my Brown Pelican, save my creatures. Oh, humans. What did I ever do to you? What did I ever do to deserve this? I've given you everything. I gave you life. I nourished you. I gave you recreation. You bathed in me and now you drill in my soul. You have shipped wrecked my body. Oh, such thankless creatures. Oh, humans, you are such thankless creatures. So selfish, so greedy. 100 million tons of dead fish are inside of me. An island of plastic waste bigger than the size of Texas. When the sea is seasick, where is the cure? What is the cure? When will the ambulance come for me? Who will operate on me, Mama Ocean? How will I fit into the hospital bed? SOS, lost at sea. Lost at sea. SOS. Please empathize, empathize with me."

Speaker 2 (02:38):

Wow, that was amazing, Mama Linda. What inspired you to make that one?

Mama Linda Gus (02:43):

Now, this poem was written a few years ago. I would say I was inspired by what happened in, I think this was done in Texas, there was a horrible oil spill and it was, oh my God, it was humongous. And it did a lot of damage to the ocean, to the sea creatures, and I was just so upset. Again, I never know what poem or what praise song I'm going to write next, it just all comes from, to me, it comes from the divine, it comes from the spirit, or it comes from the Man Upstairs, as I refer to him, it comes from the ancestors. It comes from what I am experiencing and I do have strong feelings for Mama Earth. That's why I referred to her as Mama Earth, which includes Mama Ocean and sometimes Mama Ocean is seen as Poseidon, Father Ocean, but in a lot of African cultures, the ocean is referred to as Mama Ocean. [foreign language 00:03:55].

Mama Linda Gus (03:56):

In Brazil, the people, the African people of Brazil, go out to the ocean every year and they take gifts to [foreign language 00:04:05], Mama Ocean. So, in my African culture, our ancestors honored the ocean, the earth, the sun, the trees. Every time they would carve a drum, they would cut the branch or the trunk of a tree, they prayed, they gave prayers, they gave thanks. So, all of these types of ideas and things that come to me, I would say come from a whole ocean of experiences, a whole ocean of my unconscious, the collective unconscious.